

KIRKMAN • WALKER • OTTLEY • RATHBURN • PLASCENCIA

INVINCIBLE



VOLUME THIRTEEN

GROWING PAINS



image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

GROWING PAINS



CREATED BY
**ROBERT KIRKMAN
& CORY WALKER**

image®



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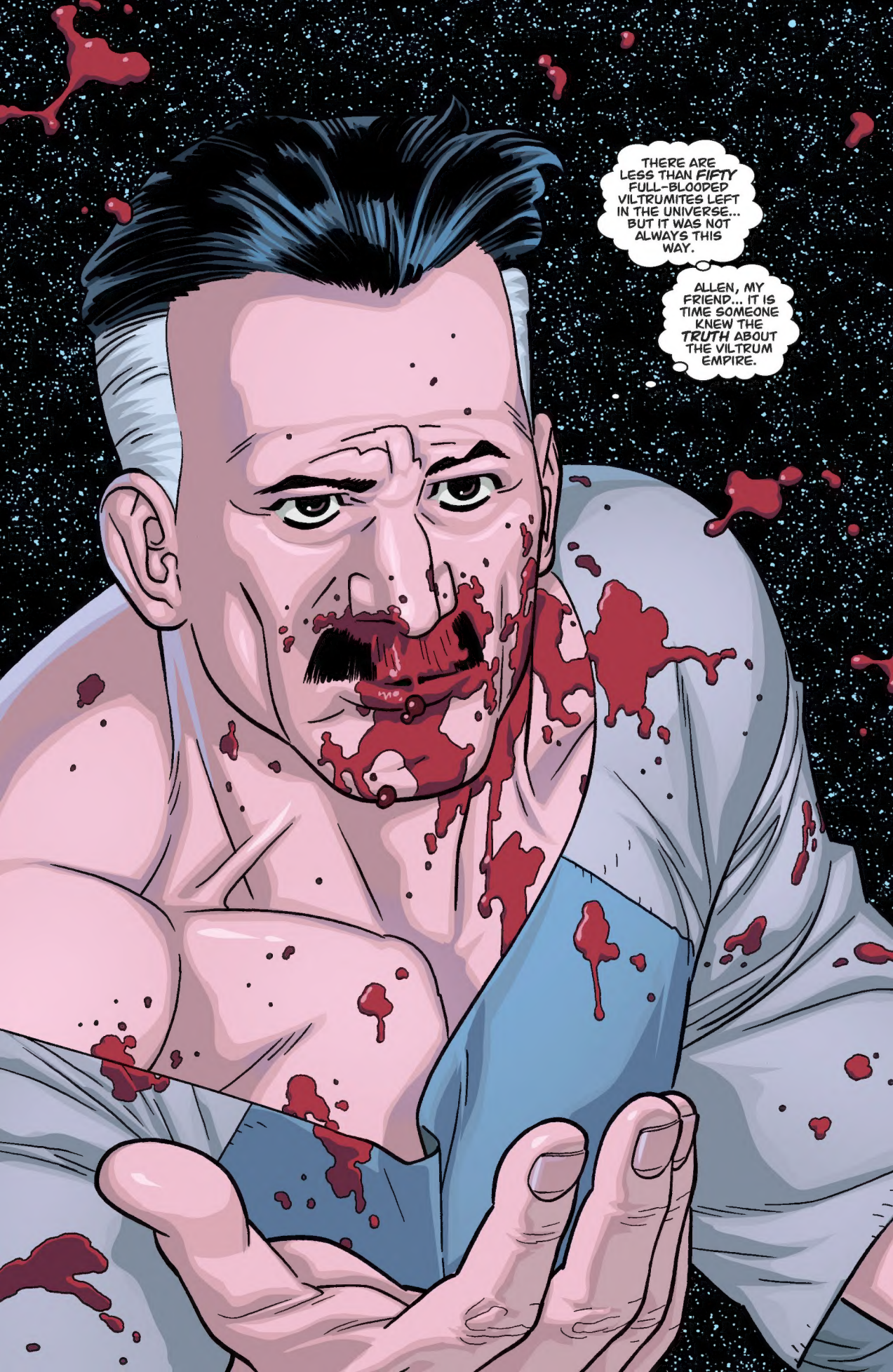
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CHAPTER ONE





THERE ARE
LESS THAN **FIFTY**
FULL-BLOODED
VILTRUMITES LEFT
IN THE UNIVERSE...
BUT IT WAS NOT
ALWAYS THIS
WAY.

ALLEN, MY
FRIEND... IT IS
TIME SOMEONE
KNEW THE
TRUTH ABOUT
THE VILTRUM
EMPIRE.



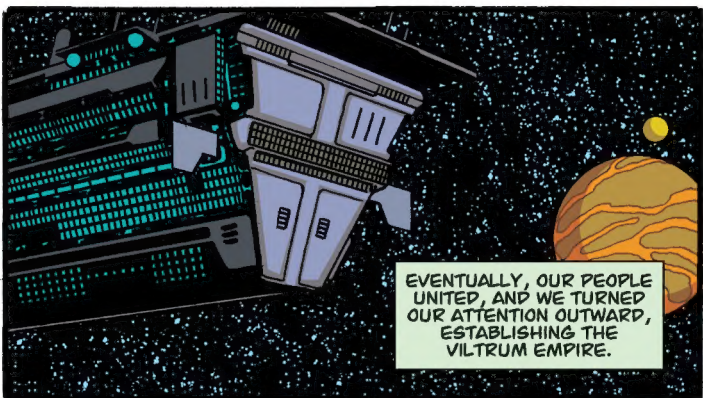
YOU KNOW A GREAT DEAL
ABOUT THE PLANET VILTRUM,
OUR HISTORY AND
OUR EMPIRE...

...AND MUCH OF
IT IS TRUE.



WE WERE A VIOLENT RACE
WHO VALUED STRENGTH
ABOVE ALL ELSE.

TO RID OURSELVES OF
ANY WEAKNESS WE
SLAUGHTERED EACH
OTHER UNTIL WE WERE
BRED INTO THE
VILTRUMITES YOU
KNOW TODAY.



EVENTUALLY, OUR PEOPLE
UNITED, AND WE TURNED
OUR ATTENTION OUTWARD,
ESTABLISHING THE
VILTRUM EMPIRE.

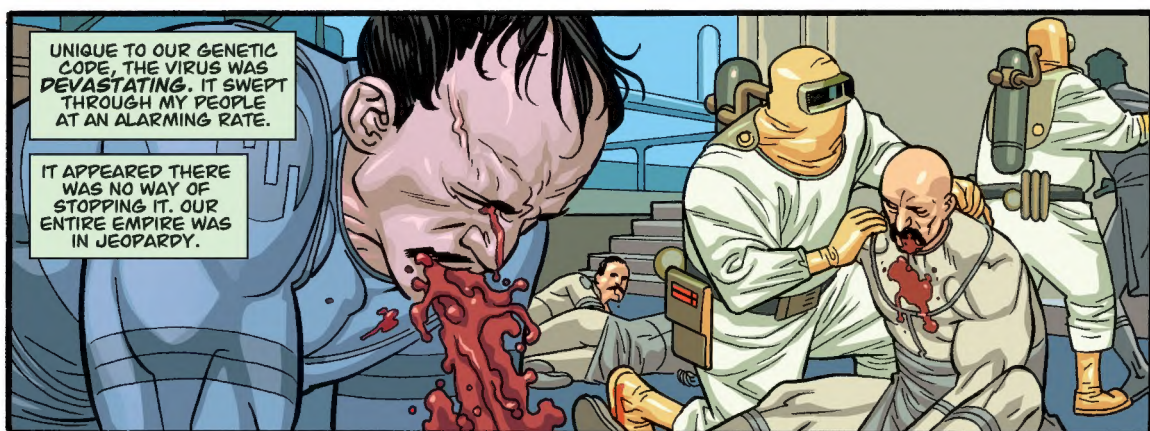


AN EMPIRE THAT CONTINUED
TO EXPAND AT AN ASTOUNDING
RATE FOR NEARLY
ONE-THOUSAND YEARS.



UNTIL OUR
ENEMIES MADE
A WEAPON
CAPABLE OF
HURTING US.

THEY MADE
A VIRUS.



UNIQUE TO OUR GENETIC CODE, THE VIRUS WAS DEVASTATING. IT SWEEPED THROUGH MY PEOPLE AT AN ALARMING RATE.

IT APPEARED THERE WAS NO WAY OF STOPPING IT. OUR ENTIRE EMPIRE WAS IN JEOPARDY.



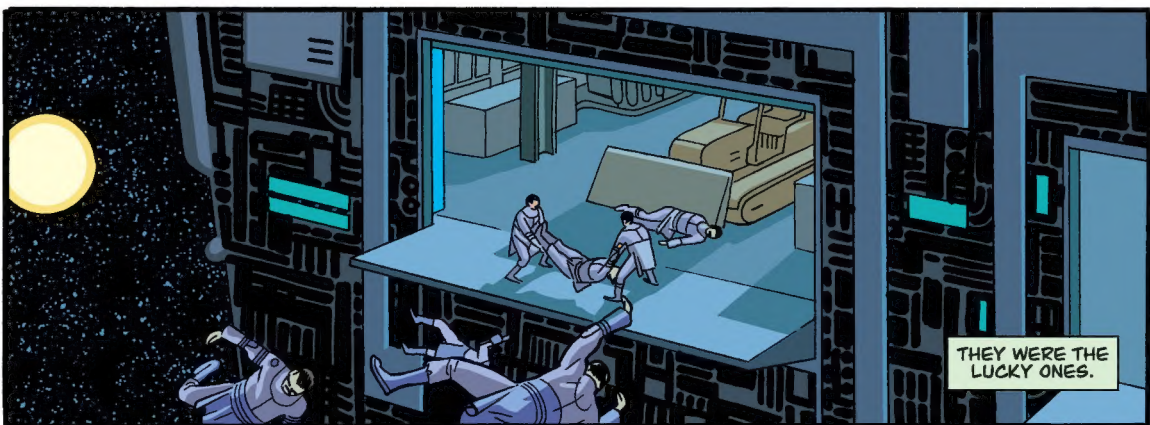
ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO GUARANTINE THOSE WHO BECAME INFECTED... BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

ALMOST THE ENTIRE POPULATION WAS INFECTED WITH WHAT WOULD BECOME KNOWN AS THE SCOURGE VIRUS.

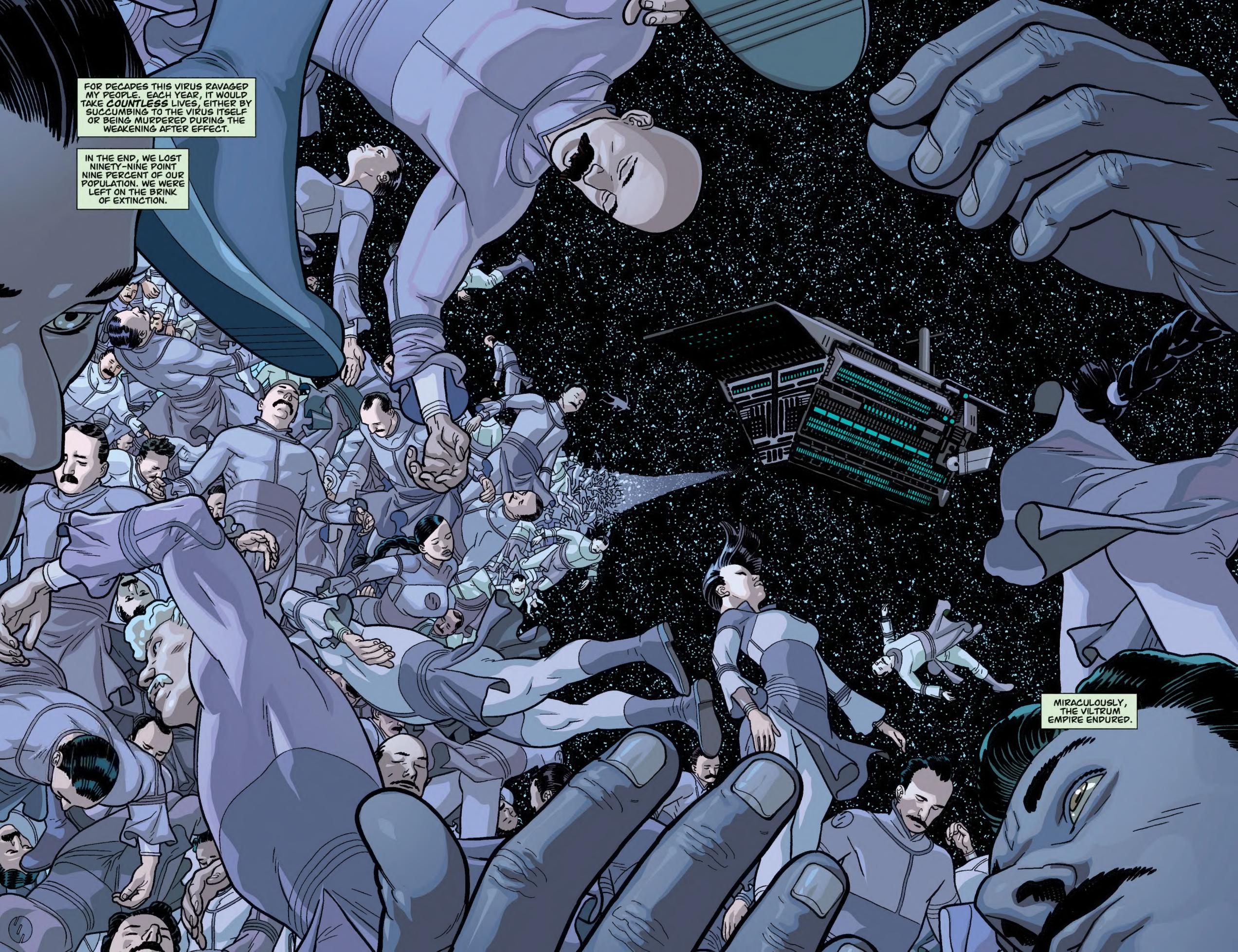


THOSE WHO **SURVIVED** THE VIRUS DISCOVERED ITS DEADLY AFTER EFFECTS.

THERE WAS A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AFTER THE VIRUS HAD LEFT THEIR SYSTEM, WHERE THEIR STRENGTH AND INVULNERABILITY HAD BEEN GREATLY DIMINISHED.



THEY WERE THE LUCKY ONES.



FOR DECADES THIS VIRUS RAVAGED MY PEOPLE. EACH YEAR, IT WOULD TAKE **COUNTLESS** LIVES, EITHER BY SUCCUMBING TO THE VIRUS ITSELF OR BEING MURDERED DURING THE WEAKENING AFTER EFFECT.

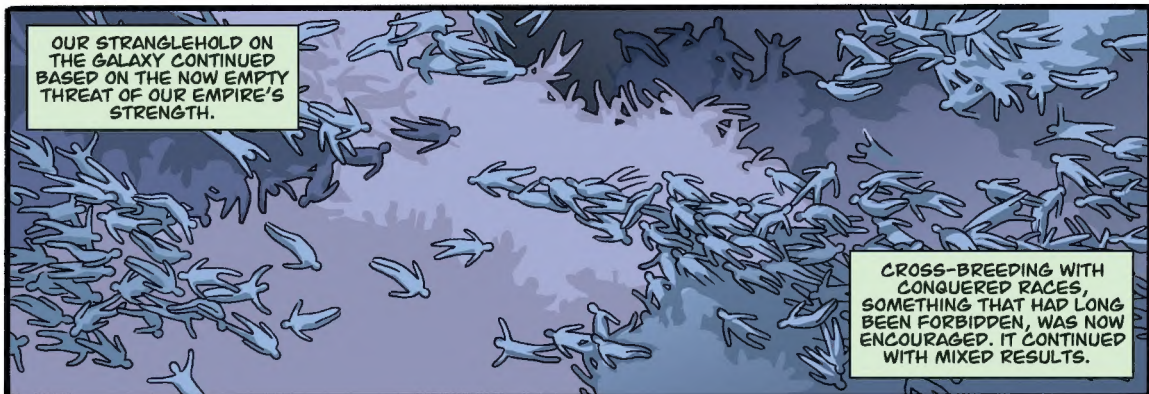
IN THE END, WE LOST NINETY-NINE POINT NINE PERCENT OF OUR POPULATION. WE WERE LEFT ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION.

MIRACULOUSLY, THE VILTRUM EMPIRE ENDURED.



OUR LEADERS SPREAD REPORTS OF OUR EXPANDING EMPIRE THINNING OUR RANKS. NEW PLANS WERE DEVISED ALLOWING AS FEW AS ONE VILTRUMITE TO CONQUER ALIEN PLANETS ON THEIR OWN.

MY MISSION ON EARTH WAS ONE SUCH PLAN.



OUR STRANGLEHOLD ON THE GALAXY CONTINUED BASED ON THE NOW EMPTY THREAT OF OUR EMPIRE'S STRENGTH.

CROSS-BREEDING WITH CONQUERED RACES, SOMETHING THAT HAD LONG BEEN FORBIDDEN, WAS NOW ENCOURAGED. IT CONTINUED WITH MIXED RESULTS.



UNTIL EARTH, UNTIL MY SON. I NEVER TOLD HIM OUR MAIN REASON FOR CONQUERING EARTH... WHAT MADE IT SO IMPORTANT.

HUMAN DNA IS ALMOST ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT COMPATIBLE WITH VILTRUMITES. EARTH IS TO BECOME A BREEDING CAMP.



THE RESULTS OF THE SCOURGE VIRUS WERE HIDDEN, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN.

OUR PLANET, CUT OFF FROM ANY OUTSIDE RACES, NOW STANDS AS A TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN BRETHREN. A REMINDER OF WHAT WE'VE SACRIFICED TO CONTINUE OUR QUEST FOR INTER-PLANETARY DOMINATION.



A QUEST
I NOW SEE
AS THE
POINTLESS
ENDEAVOR
THAT IT
IS...

WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO
WITH EARTH... I WAS
BORN IN A BREEDING
CAMP. I WOULDN'T WISH
THAT ON ANYONE. WE
HAVE TO WARN
MARK.



NO.

YOU HAVE
TO TAKE ME
TO YOUR PEOPLE.
I NEED TO MEET
WITH THE COALITION
OF PLANETS.
IMMEDIATELY.



I TRUST YOU, BUT I
DON'T KNOW IF MY
BOSS WILL. THIS
WON'T BE
EASY.



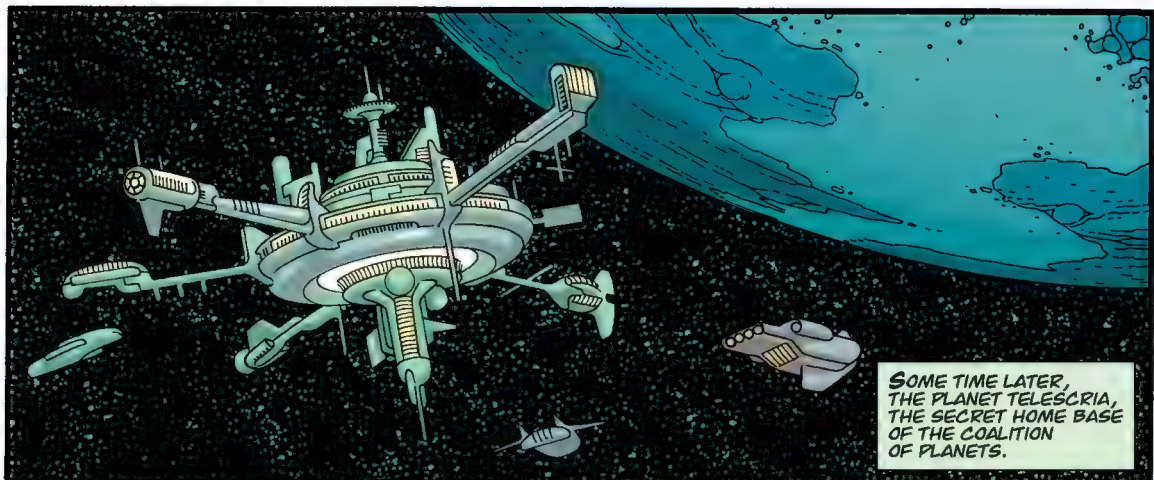
IT DOESN'T MATTER. IF
WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE
TO SAVE EARTH AND STOP
THE VILTRUM EMPIRE
ONCE AND FOR ALL, THE
COALITION NEEDS TO
KNOW EVERYTHING
I KNOW.



WE'LL ALSO NEED THE INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN MY BOOKS THAT YOU
SCANNED. I WROTE EVERYTHING
DOWN SO I WOULDN'T NEED TO
REMEMBER IT ALL--AND THERE
IS VALUABLE INFORMATION
ENCODED IN THE
WORDS.

INFORMATION
THAT WILL GAIN
YOUR BOSS'S
TRUST.

OKAY, LET
ME GET MY
GEAR AND
THEN WE'LL
GO.



SOME TIME LATER,
THE PLANET TELESORIA,
THE SECRET HOME BASE
OF THE COALITION
OF PLANETS.



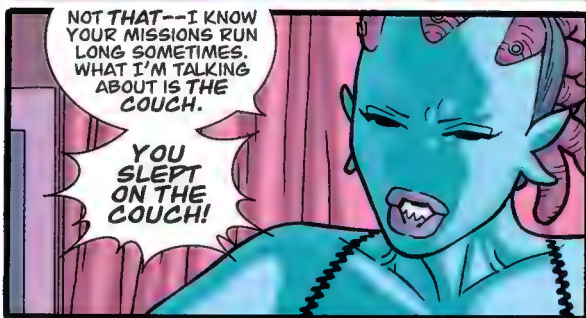
WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?!



TELIA,
PEAR,
UH--I'M
SORRY.

I WAS ON
THAT MISSION
AND I WAS TAKEN
PRISONER BY THE
VILTRUMITES. THEY
HELD ME IN PRISON
FOR A FEW MONTHS,
I WAS JUST
RECENTLY ABLE
TO ESCAPE.

I WOULD
HAVE CONTACTED
YOU IF I COULD
HAVE--BUT THERE
WAS NEVER AN
OPPORTUNITY
AND--



NOT THAT--I KNOW
YOUR MISSIONS RUN
LONG SOMETIMES.
WHAT I'M TALKING
ABOUT IS THE
COUCH.

YOU
SLEPT
ON THE
COUCH!



OH, UH... THAT. I'M
SORRY. THE THING
IS, WE GOT IN
REALLY LATE
AND--



I DON'T CARE HOW LATE YOU GET BACK FROM A MISSION. YOU KNOW THE RULES. YOU WAKE ME UP!

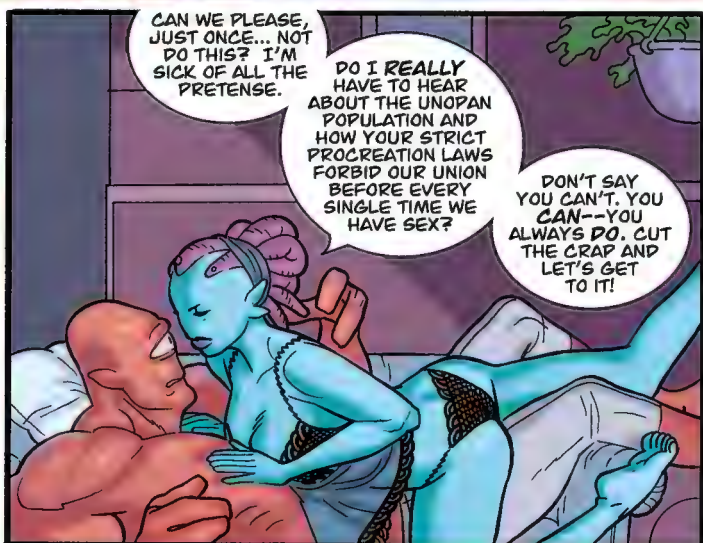
I'VE BEEN LIVING WITHOUT FOR MONTHS AND I AM HUNGRY! NOW GIVE IT TO ME YOU UNOPAN GOD.

GIVE IT TO ME NOW!



TELIA, PLEASE. I CAN'T RIGHT NOW.

STOP--!



CAN WE PLEASE, JUST ONCE... NOT DO THIS? I'M SICK OF ALL THE PRETENSE.

DO I REALLY HAVE TO HEAR ABOUT THE UNOPAN POPULATION AND HOW YOUR STRICT PROCREATION LAWS FORBID OUR UNION BEFORE EVERY SINGLE TIME WE HAVE SEX?

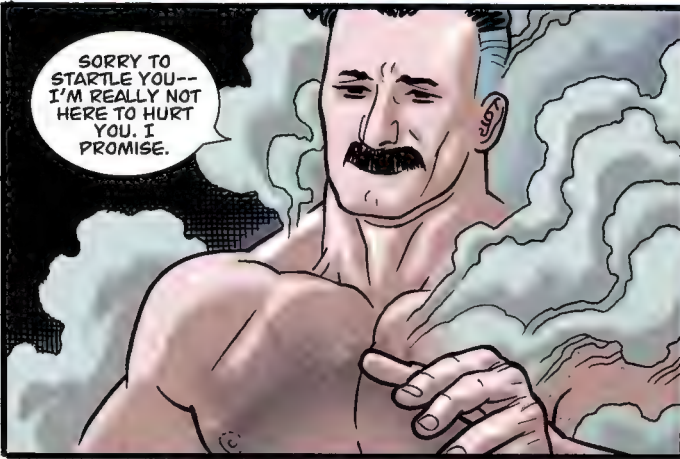
DON'T SAY YOU CAN'T, YOU CAN--YOU ALWAYS DO. CUT THE CRAP AND LET'S GET TO IT!

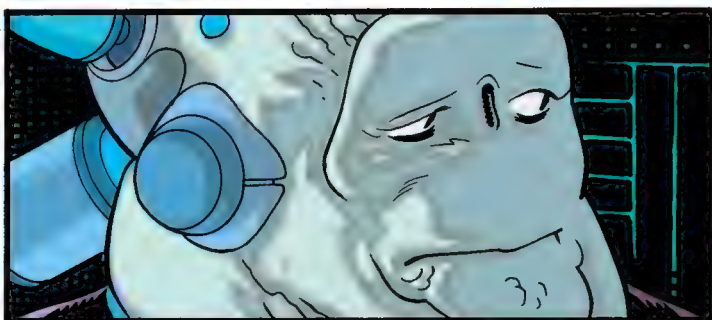
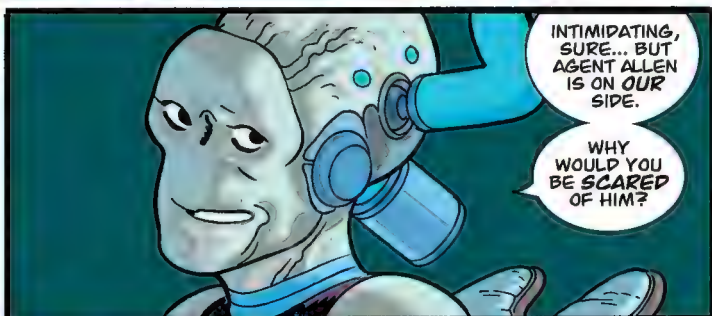
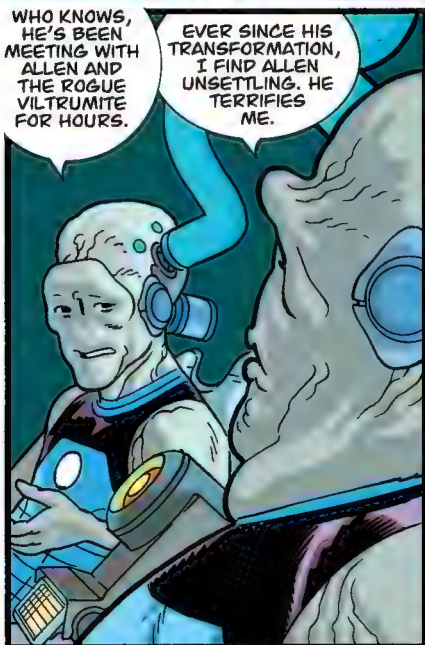
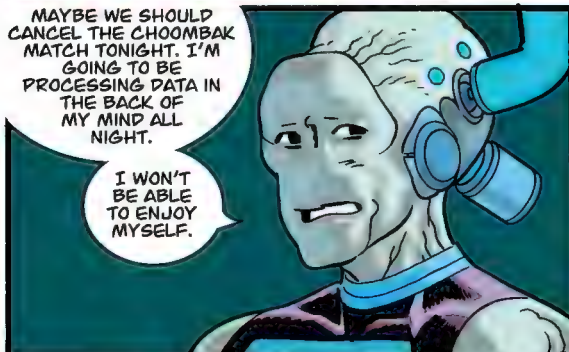


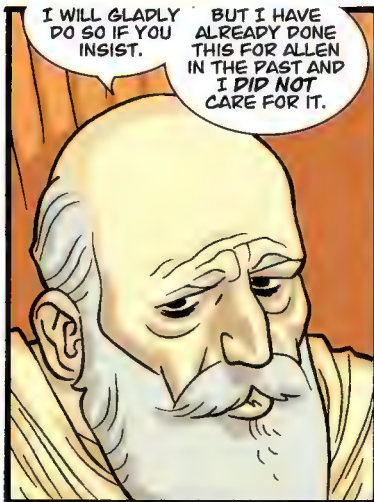
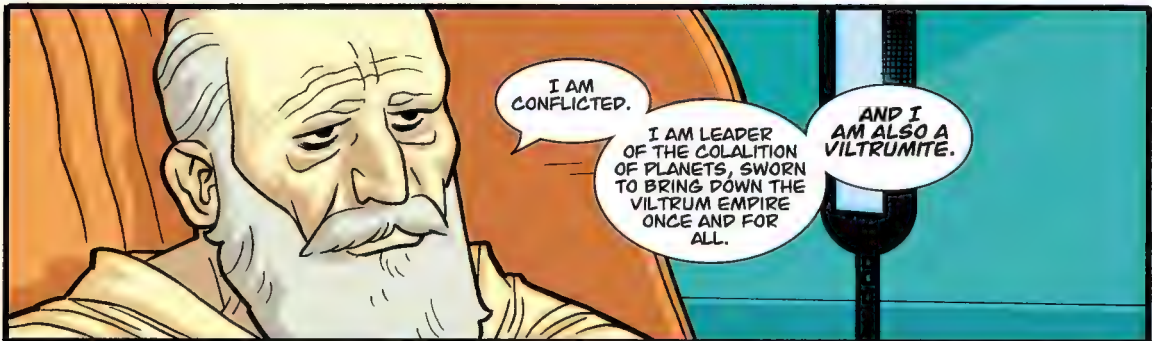
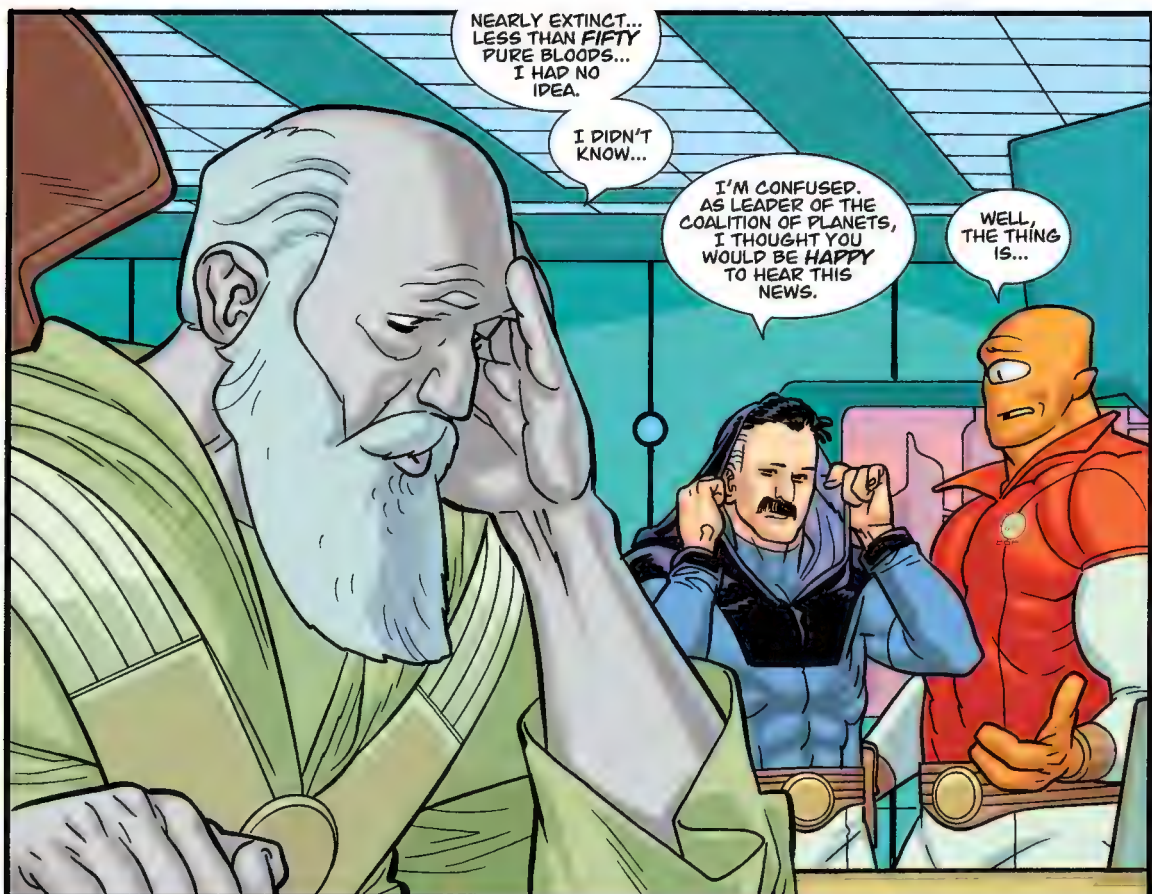
NO, THAT'S NOT IT--



WAIT A MINUTE... DID YOU SAY "WE" GOT IN REALLY LATE?









BUT I THOUGHT--I ALWAYS
FEARED THAT THERE WAS
SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME,
FOR TURNING MY BACK
AGAINST THE EMPIRE--
VILTRUMITES HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN
LOYAL...

...I
THOUGHT
I WAS THE
FIRST.

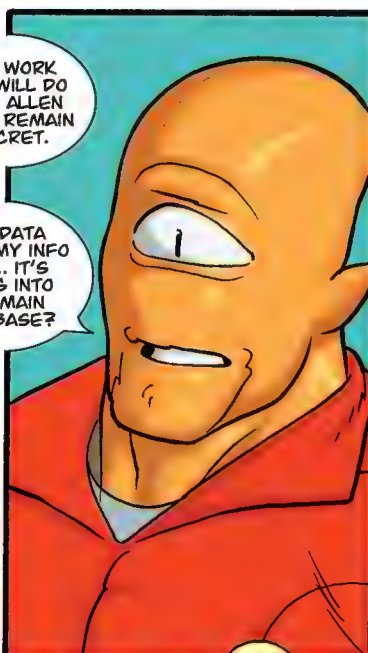
MY
BETRAYAL
WAS HIDDEN,
REMOVED FROM
HISTORY'S
RECORD.

BUT THERE
IS NO TIME FOR
THIS. WE HAVE
ALREADY BEEN
CONVERSING TOO
LONG. PEOPLE WILL
BECOME SUSPICIOUS
THAT THIS ISN'T
JUST A STANDARD
BRIEFING.

I
CAN'T
HAVE
THAT.



THERE IS AT LEAST ONE
VILTRUMITE AGENT AMONG
US, REPORTING BACK
TO THE EMPIRE.



THE WORK
YOU WILL DO
WITH ALLEN
MUST REMAIN
SECRET.

THE DATA
FROM MY INFO
POD... IT'S
GOING INTO
THE MAIN
DATABASE?



NO.

MY TRUSTED INNER-CIRCLE
HAS A SEPARATE DATABASE
FOR MORE SENSITIVE DATA.
AND EVEN THEY WILL BE
UNAWARE OF YOUR
MISSION USING THIS
DATA.



WE NOW HAVE A LIST OF
WEAPONS AND BEINGS THAT
CAN HURT A VILTRUMITE--
THINGS THAT WILL BECOME
VERY VALUABLE TO
THE COALITION OF
PLANETS.

I CHARGE
YOU TWO WITH
THE TASK OF
GATHERING AS
MUCH OF THESE
THINGS THAT
STILL
REMAIN.

ALLEN, I'M GIVING
YOU ACCESS TO OUR
ARMORY FOR THE NEXT
HOUR--THAT'S AS MUCH
TIME AS I CAN KEEP
SECRET FROM THE
COUNCIL.

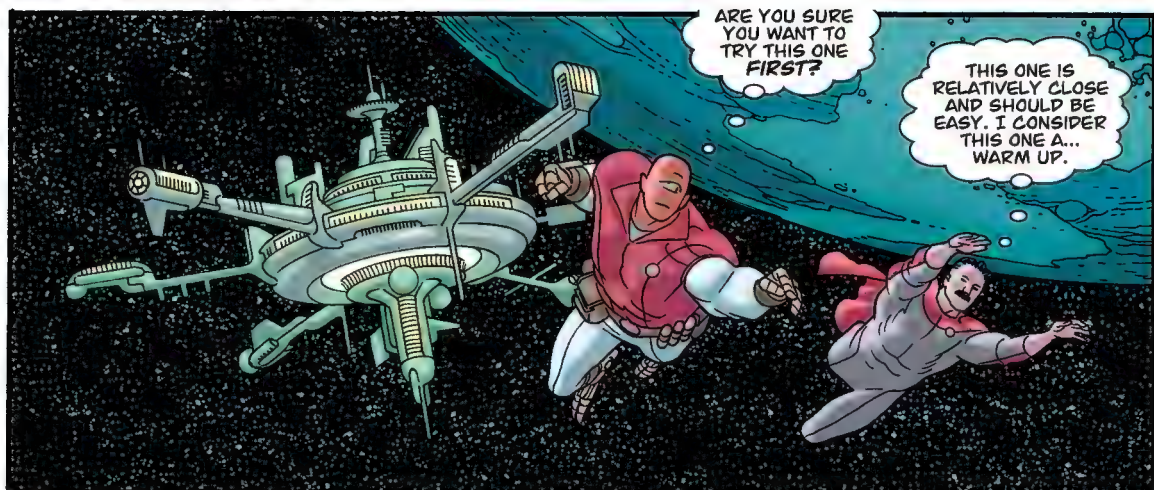
GO.



SWEET!

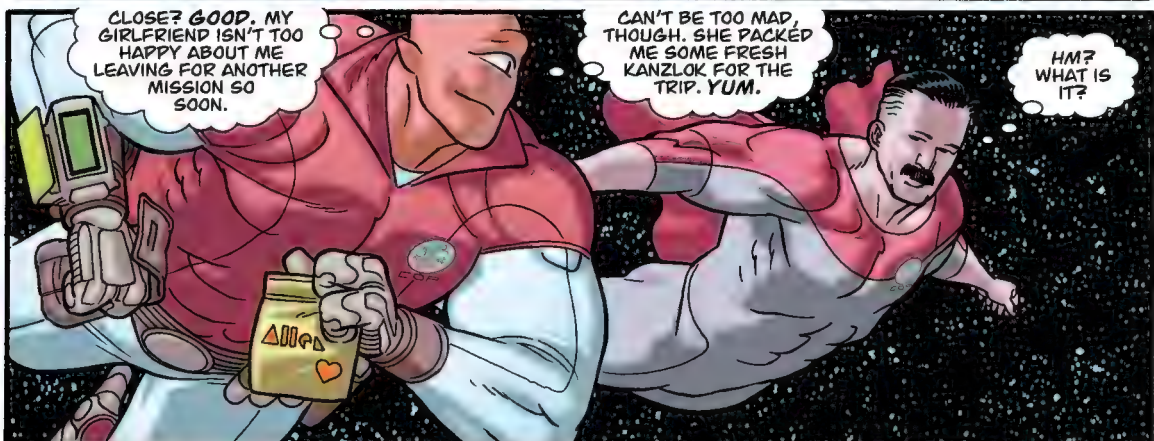
IT LOOKS
COOL, BUT WITH
YOUR STRENGTH
AREN'T ALL THOSE
GADGETS A LITTLE...
UNNECESSARY?
SEEMS LIKE THEY'LL
JUST... SLOW
YOU DOWN.

YEAH, AND
YOUR SUIT'S
ALL ABOUT
PRACTICALITY.
NICE CAPE,
DUDE.



ARE YOU SURE
YOU WANT TO
TRY THIS ONE
FIRST?

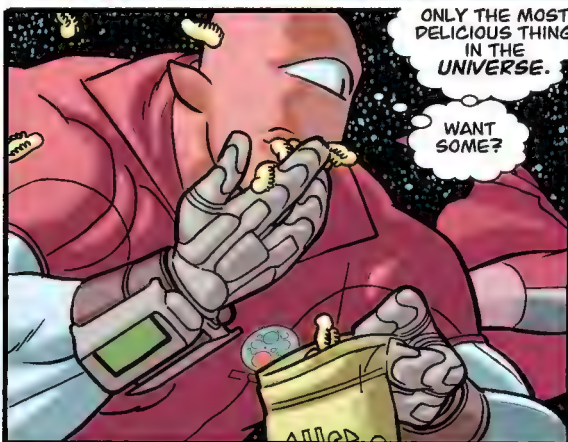
THIS ONE IS
RELATIVELY CLOSE
AND SHOULD BE
EASY. I CONSIDER
THIS ONE A...
WARM UP.



CLOSE? GOOD. MY
GIRLFRIEND ISN'T TOO
HAPPY ABOUT ME
LEAVING FOR ANOTHER
MISSION SO
SOON.

CAN'T BE TOO MAD,
THOUGH. SHE PACKED
ME SOME FRESH
KANZLOK FOR THE
TRIP. YUM.

HM?
WHAT IS
IT?



ONLY THE MOST
DELICIOUS THING
IN THE
UNIVERSE.

WANT
SOME?



PASS.





THERE IT IS, THE NEBULOID BELT. IT'S BEEN... ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS SINCE I WAS HERE.

LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME.

IT'S... A BUNCH OF ROCKS.



HAND ME YOUR INFO POD.



JUST SAYING...



THERE'S A CODE HIDDEN IN THE TEXT. THE NUMBER OF WORDS IN THESE PARAGRAPHS I WROTE ABOUT THE ASTEROIDS WILL SPELL OUT THE COORDINATES OF THE SPECIFIC ASTEROID WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

FOLLOW ME.

SO, IF IT'S BEEN ONE-HUNDRED YEARS, GIVE OR TAKE, AND THE ASTEROIDS ARE DRIFTING AT THIS SPEED, THEIR RELATIVE DISTANCE TO EACH OTHER WOULD BE SHIFTING...

AND...

YOU GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIND THIS... WHATEVER IT IS WE'RE AFTER?

ABSOLUTELY. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.



...

ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?



NO, NO... ALMOST GOT IT.

THERE.



THIS IS IT.

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? IT'S A ROCK-- THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME.

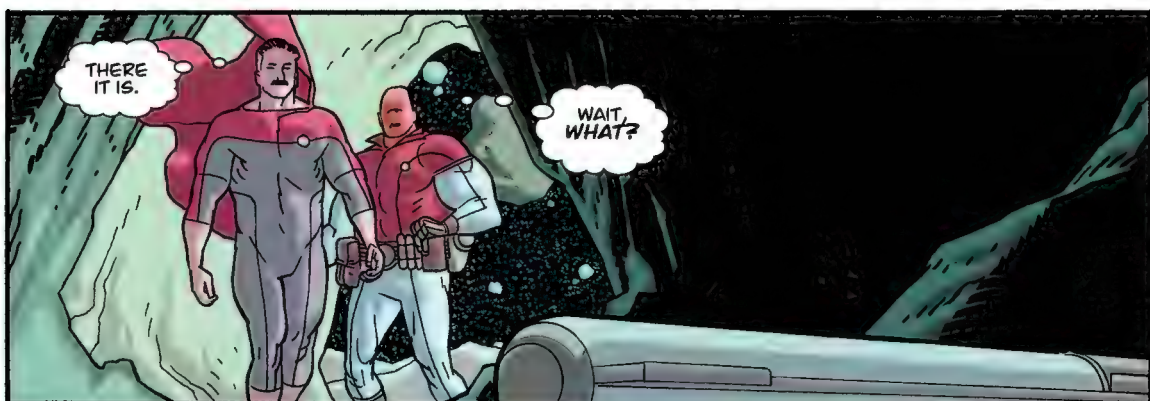


I'M NOT SURE... BUT THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR.



AH!





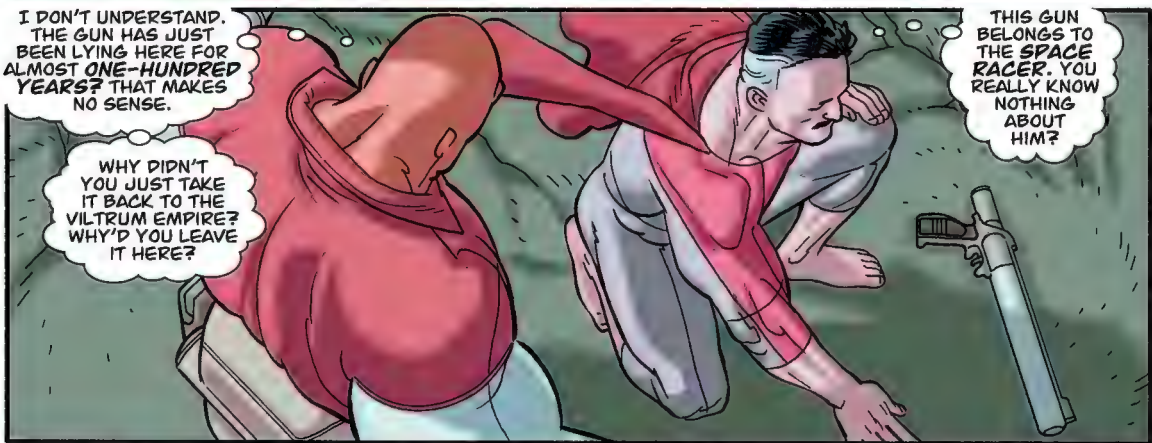
THERE IT IS.

WAIT, WHAT?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE GUN HAS JUST BEEN LYING HERE FOR ALMOST ONE-HUNDRED YEARS? THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TAKE IT BACK TO THE VILTRUM EMPIRE? WHY'D YOU LEAVE IT HERE?

THIS GUN BELONGS TO THE SPACE RACER. YOU REALLY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIM?



SPACE RACER? YOU CALLED HIM THE SPACE RIDER IN THE BOOK.

I HAD TO CHANGE THE NAMES, I HAD NO IDEA WHO WOULD EVENTUALLY READ THOSE BOOKS. I WROTE THEM AS REMINDERS TO MYSELF--OR MY SON, IF WE NEEDED THEM. I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO FALL IN THE WRONG HANDS.

AND NO, I'M NOT EVEN CLOSE TO ONE-HUNDRED YEARS OLD. YOU DID YOUR JOB, NO ONE TALKS ABOUT THIS GUY ANYMORE.

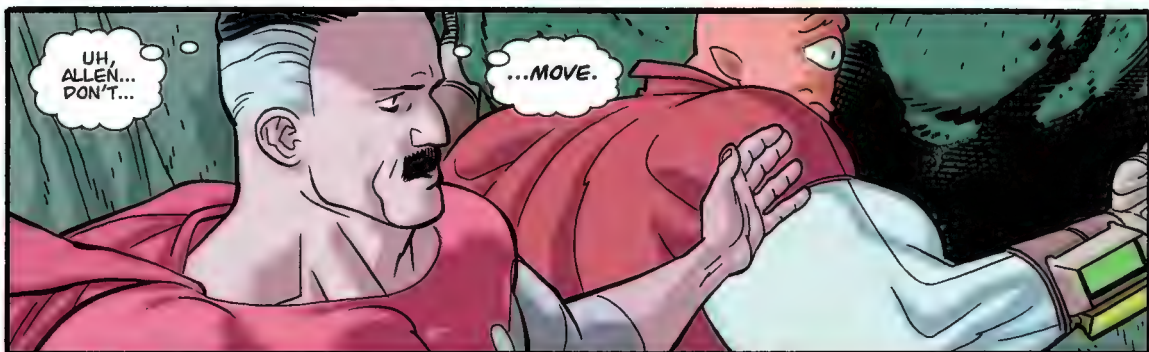


THE SPACE RACER'S GUN--THE ONE THAT FIRES INDESTRUCTIBLE BLASTS THAT WILL SHOOT THROUGH ANYTHING--CAN ONLY BE FIRED BY HIM.

HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF BOND WITH THE GUN--IF ANYONE TRIES TO TAKE IT OR USE IT... IF I HAD TOUCHED IT WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE IT WOULD HAVE FLOWN INTO THE CENTER OF THE PILE OF RUBBLE I BURIED HIM UNDER AND GIVEN HIM THE MEANS TO ESCAPE.

MY ONLY OPTION WAS TO LEAVE IT EXACTLY WHERE HE DROPPED IT.



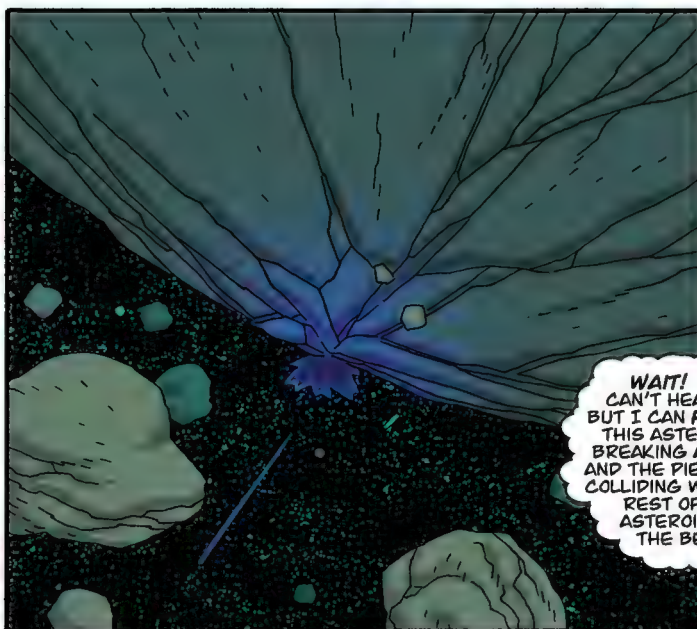
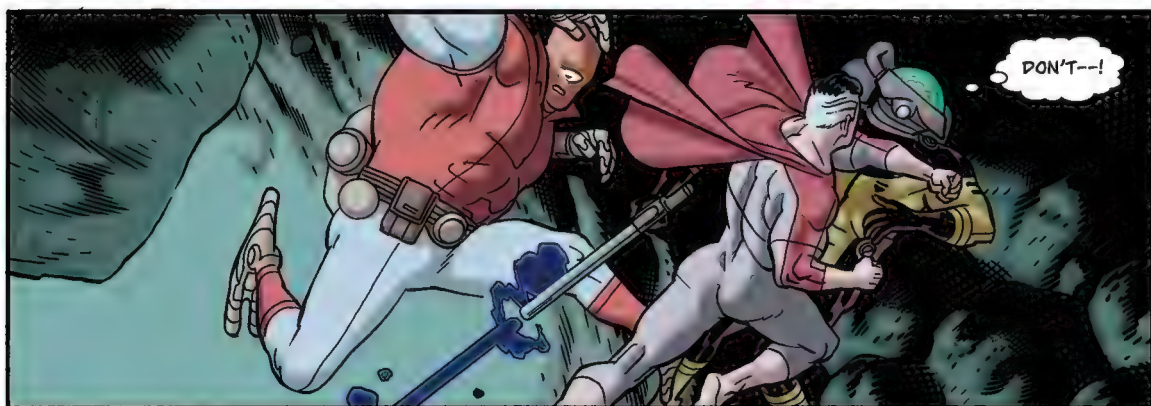
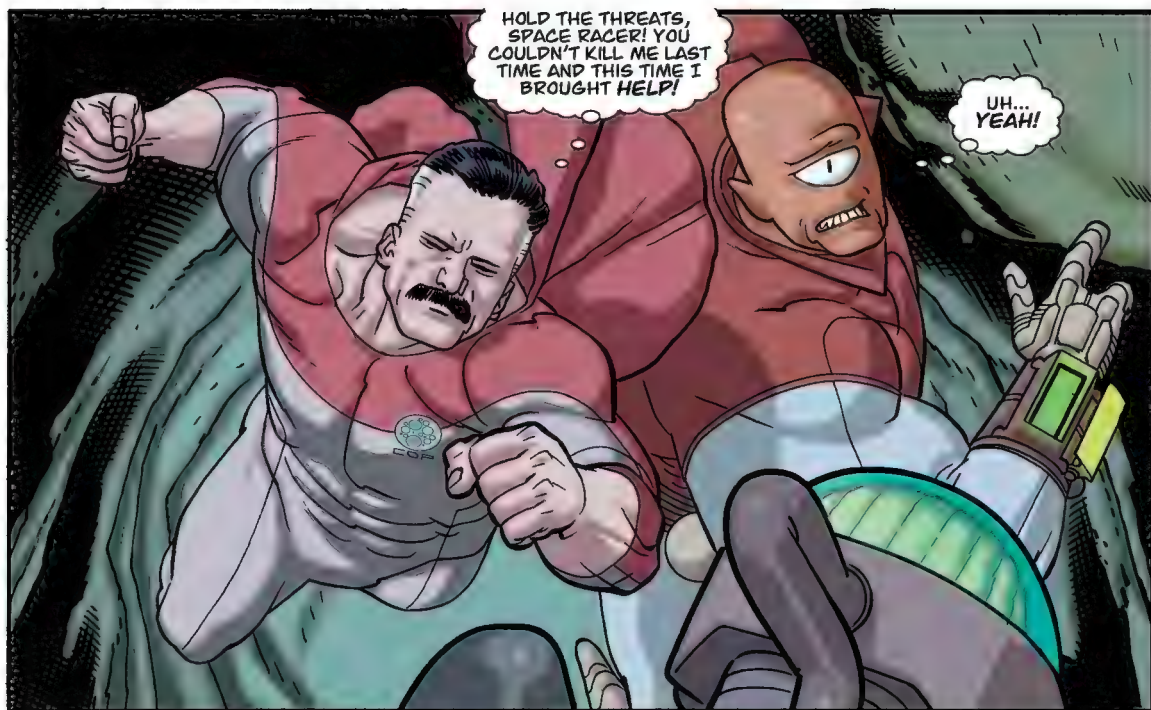




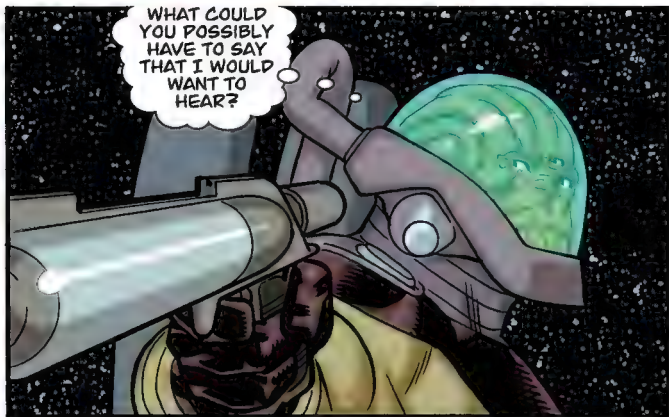
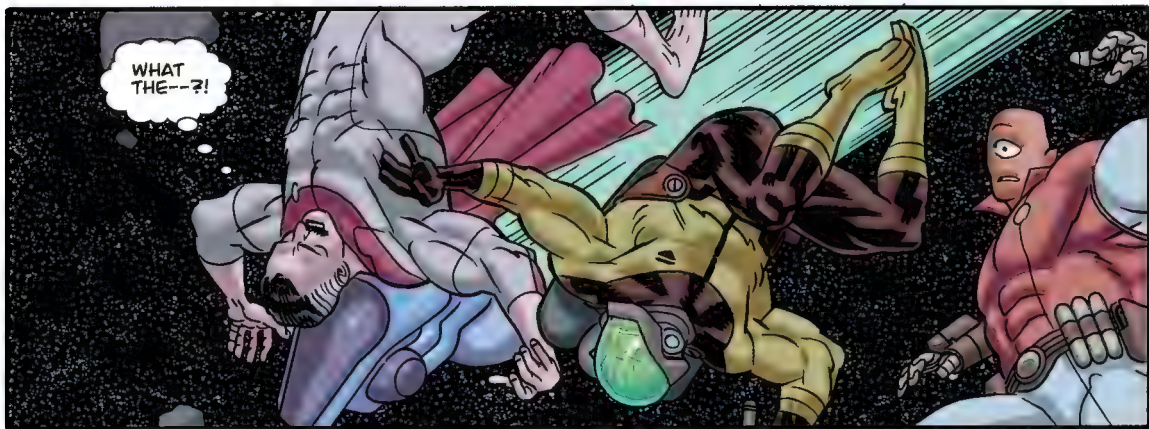
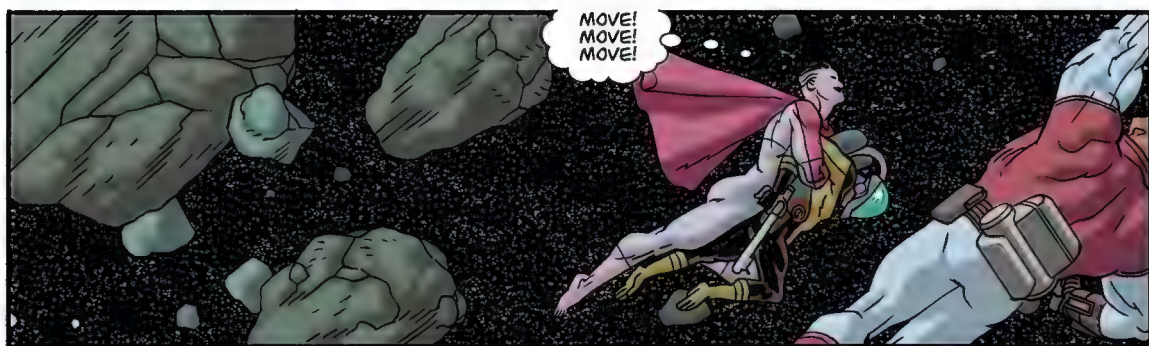


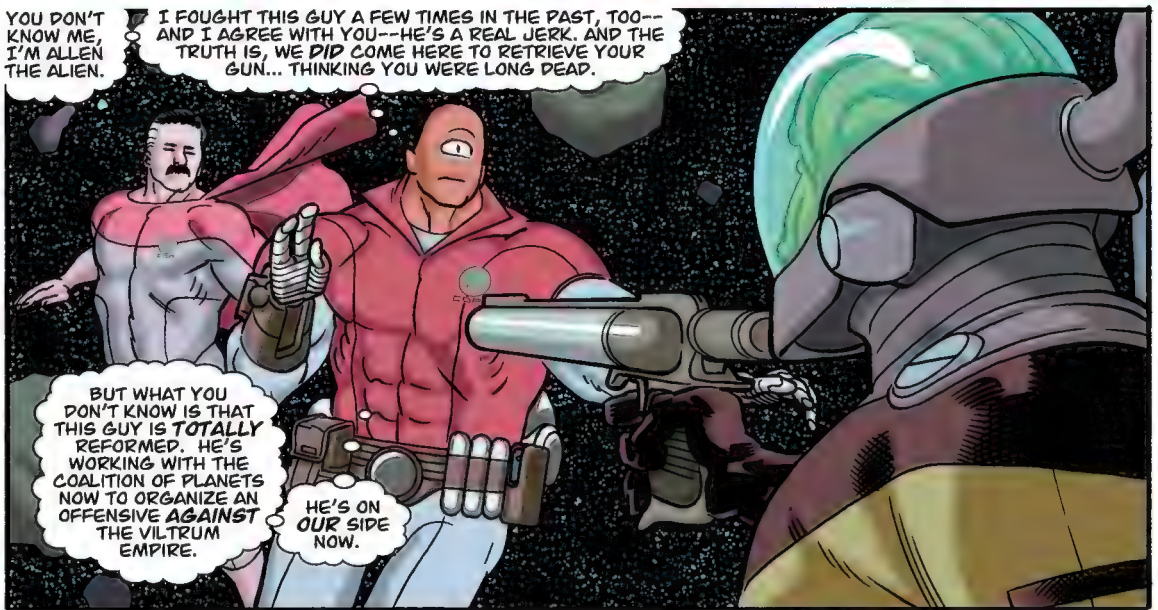
CHAPTER TWO











IF YOU COULD PLEASE
JUST ACCOMPANY US
BACK TO THE COALITION
HEADQUARTERS YOU
COULD SEE THAT WE
ARE INDEED FIGHTING
AGAINST THE
VILTRUMITES.



WE COULD
PROVIDE YOU WITH
WHATEVER
ASSURANCES--

I HAVE
BEEN BURIED
UNDER THAT
RUBBLE FOR
NEARLY ONE-
HUNDRED
YEARS...



I KNOW AND MY
ASSOCIATE HAS
SAID HE'S VERY
SORRY ABOUT
THAT, AND--



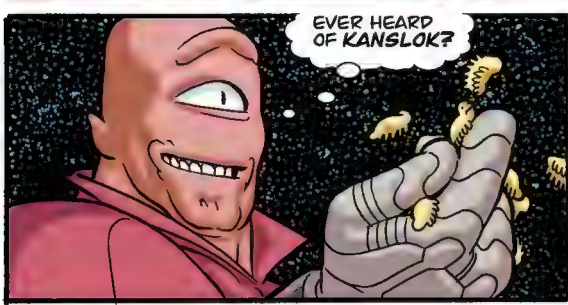
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
FOOD?



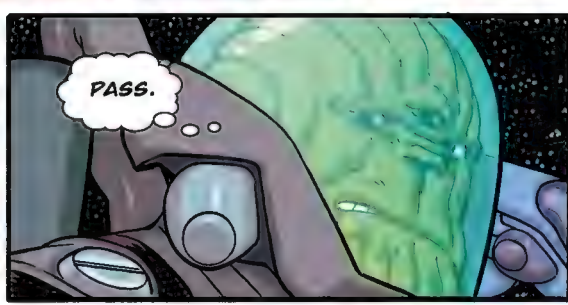
SURE DO!
JUST GIVE ME
A SECOND...



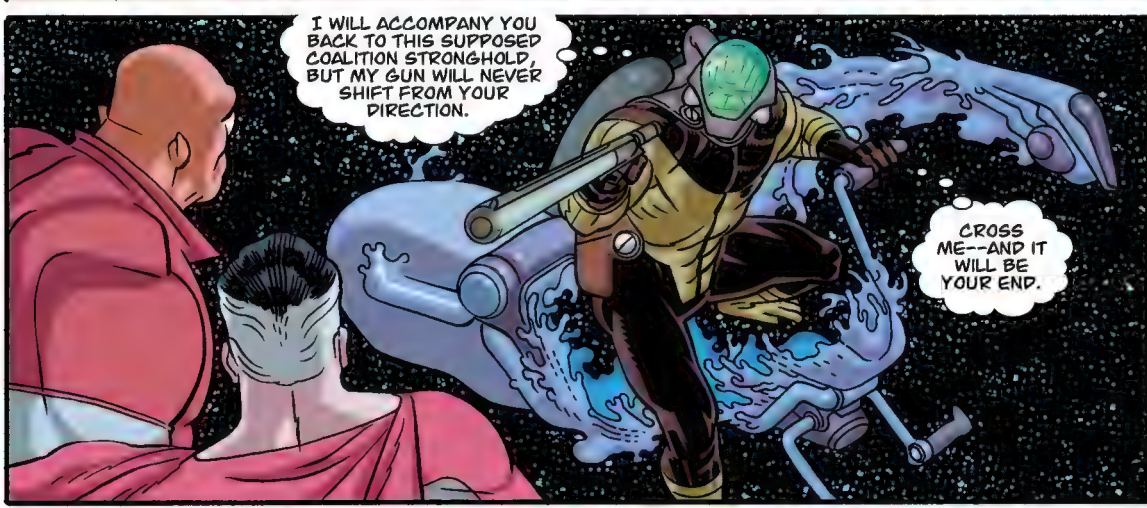
EVER HEARD
OF KANSLOK?



PASS.



I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU
BACK TO THIS SUPPOSED
COALITION STRONGHOLD,
BUT MY GUN WILL NEVER
SHIFT FROM YOUR
DIRECTION.

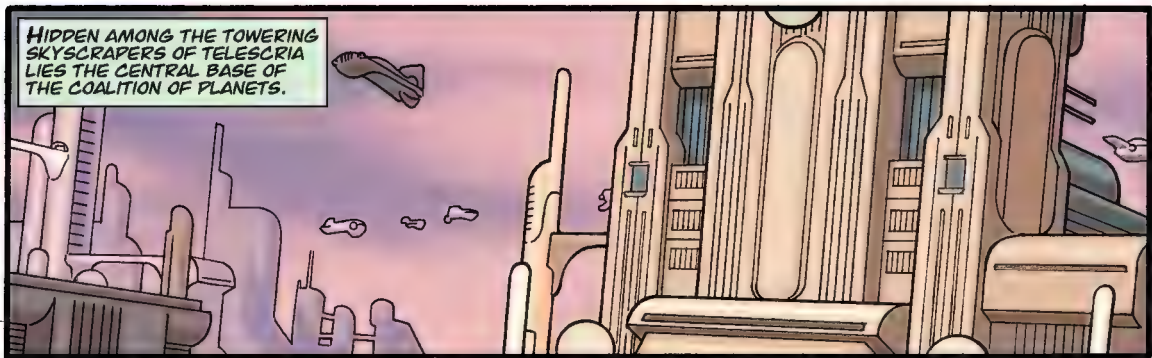


CROSS
ME--AND IT
WILL BE
YOUR END.

OOH
SCARY.

HEH.





HIDDEN AMONG THE TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS OF TELESCRIA LIES THE CENTRAL BASE OF THE COALITION OF PLANETS.



HE'S STILL VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT THIS SITUATION BUT I'M TOLD HE'S OPTIMISTIC ABOUT WORKING WITH US.

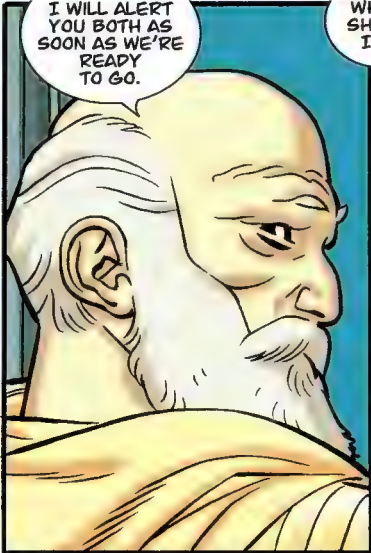
MY MEDICAL SPECIALISTS ARE EXAMINING HIM TO MAKE SURE HE'S IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE. HIS METABOLISM IS ASTOUNDING.

THIS GUY IS GOING TO BE A HUGE HELP TO US. VERY WELL DONE, BOTH OF YOU.



THANK YOU, GREAT THÆDUS.

I'M GOING TO HEAD HOME WHILE YOUR TEAM ASSEMBLES FOR OUR NEXT MISSION. YOU SAY IT COULD BE TWO DAYS BEFORE THEY ARE READY?

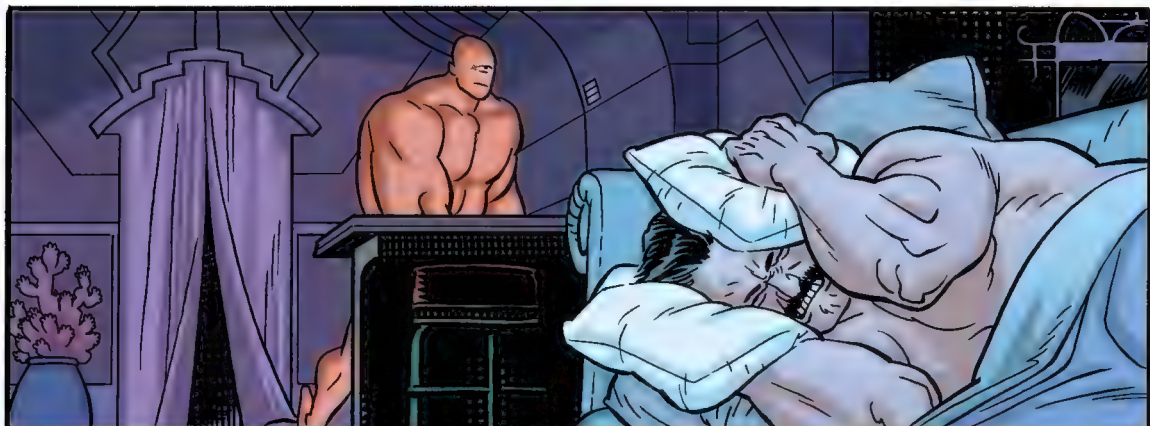
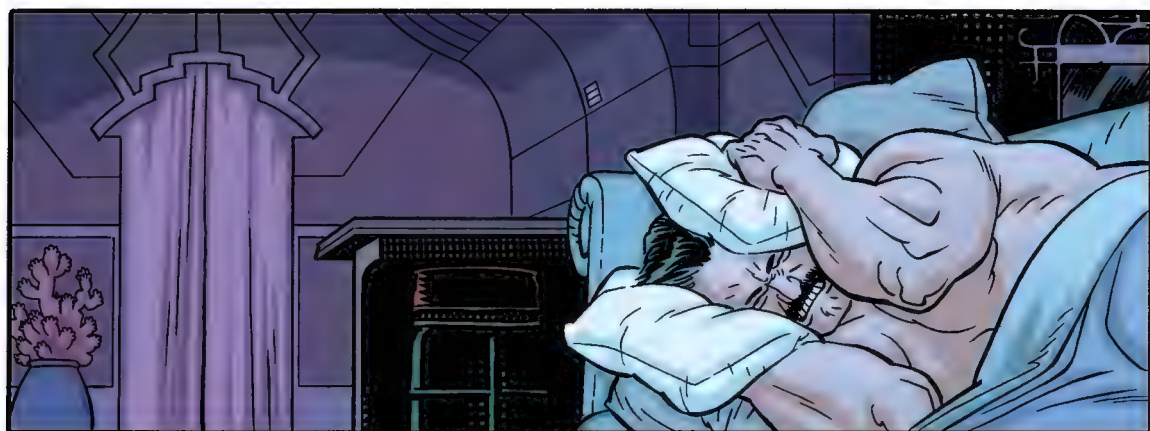


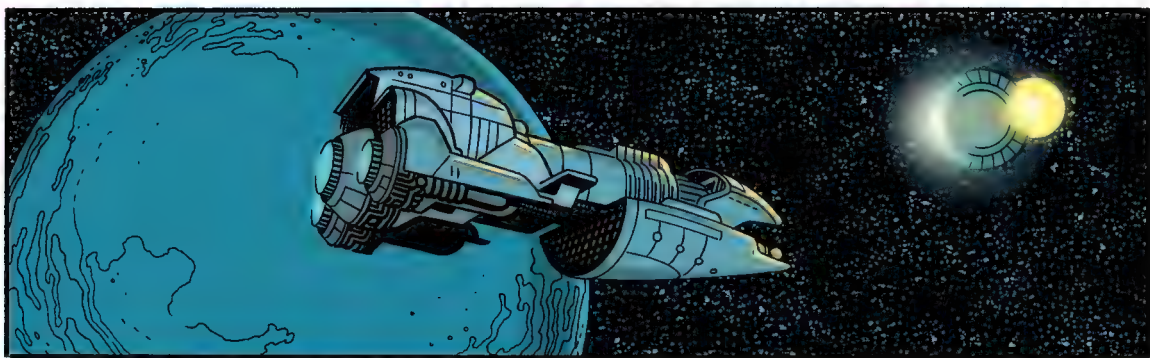
I WILL ALERT YOU BOTH AS SOON AS WE'RE READY TO GO.



WHERE SHOULD I--?

ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU'RE CRASHING AT MY PLACE, BUDDY!





THE ROGNARR ARE VICIOUS. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL. WHEN THE VILTRUMITES DISCOVERED THIS RACE OF MONSTERS, THEY SENT A FEW TEAMS HERE TO TRY AND DESTROY THEM-- TO DISASTROUS RESULTS. THESE THINGS ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE.

FINALLY, I CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF USING A SOLAR DISK TO BLOCK THEIR SUN-- FREEZING THEM. IF THESE THINGS THAW OUT WHILE WE'RE HERE-- WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

WITH ALL THIS ICE-- HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THEM?



YOU'RE RIGHT.

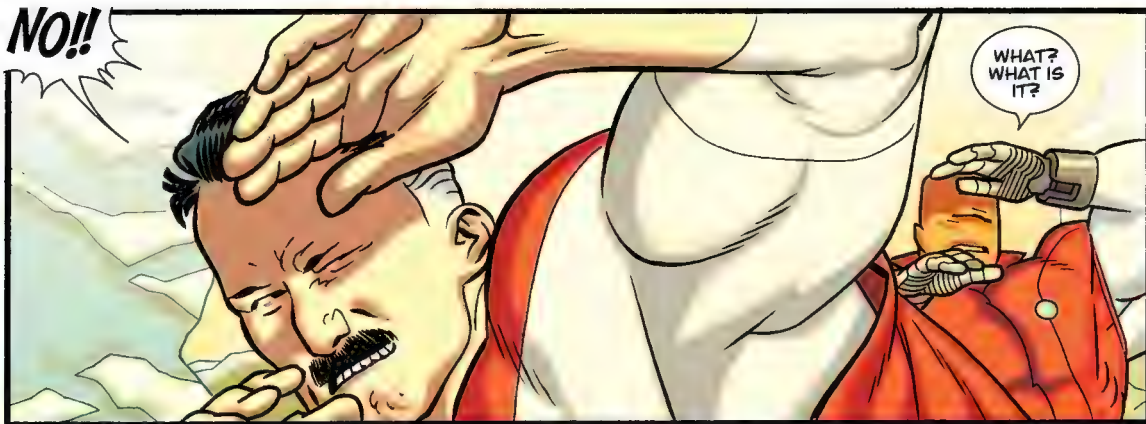
NOLAN TO BRIDGE. WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO PREPARE A TEAM TO TRANSPORT THESE THINGS TO THE CARGO HOLD BEFORE THEY COMPLETELY THAW OUT. THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO FIND THEM IS BY REMOVING THE SOLAR DISK.

WE CAN HANDLE THAT ON OUR OWN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

DOWNLOAD, FIRE AT WILL.

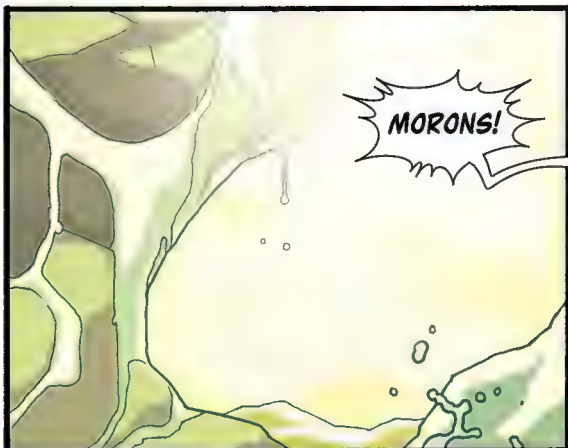


NO!!



WHAT?
WHAT IS
IT?

MORONS!



THIS ICE WILL BE
MELTED IN A MATTER
OF MINUTES... WE
NEEDED TO MOVE
THE DISK--NOT
COMPLETELY
DESTROY IT!

WE'VE
GOT
TO WORK
FAST!



THERE! WE NEED
TO GET THAT ONE
UP TO THE SHIP
BEFORE IT
COMPLETELY
THAWS OUT!

WE'RE ONLY
GOING TO GET
ONE SHOT
AT THIS!



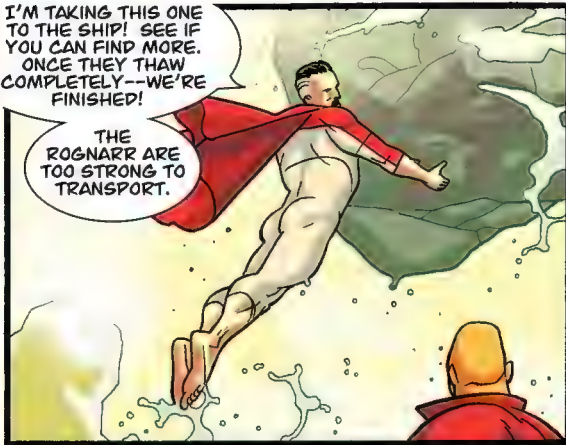
C'MON!

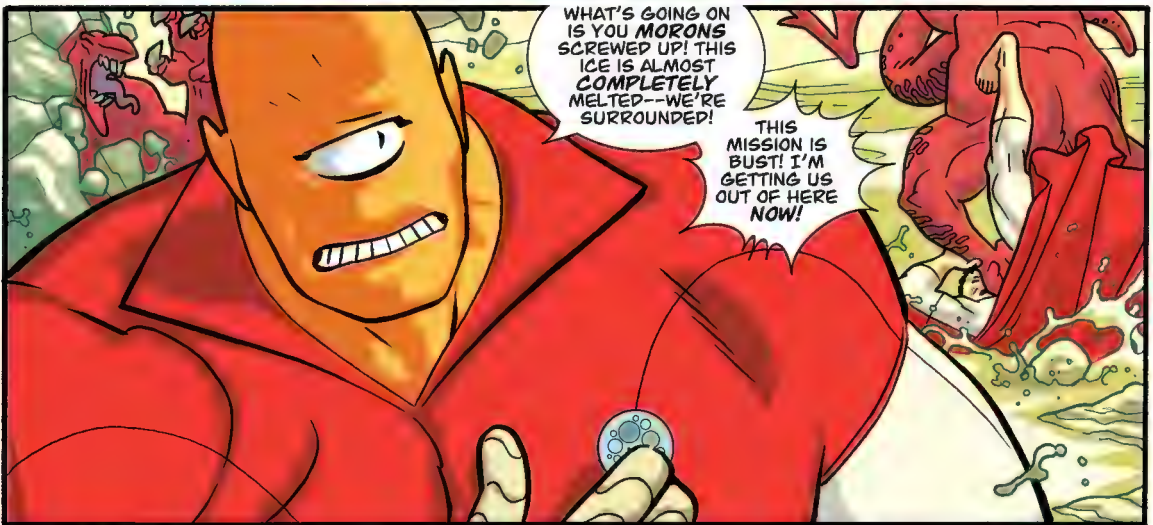


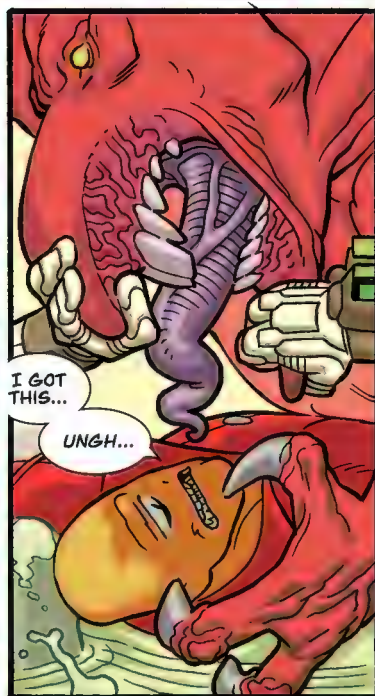
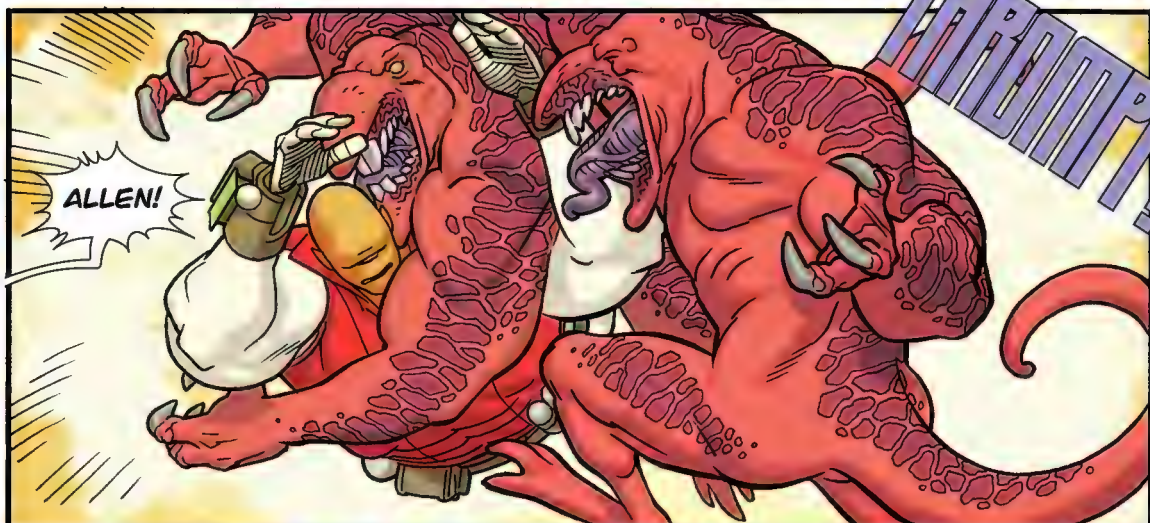
RRRKK!

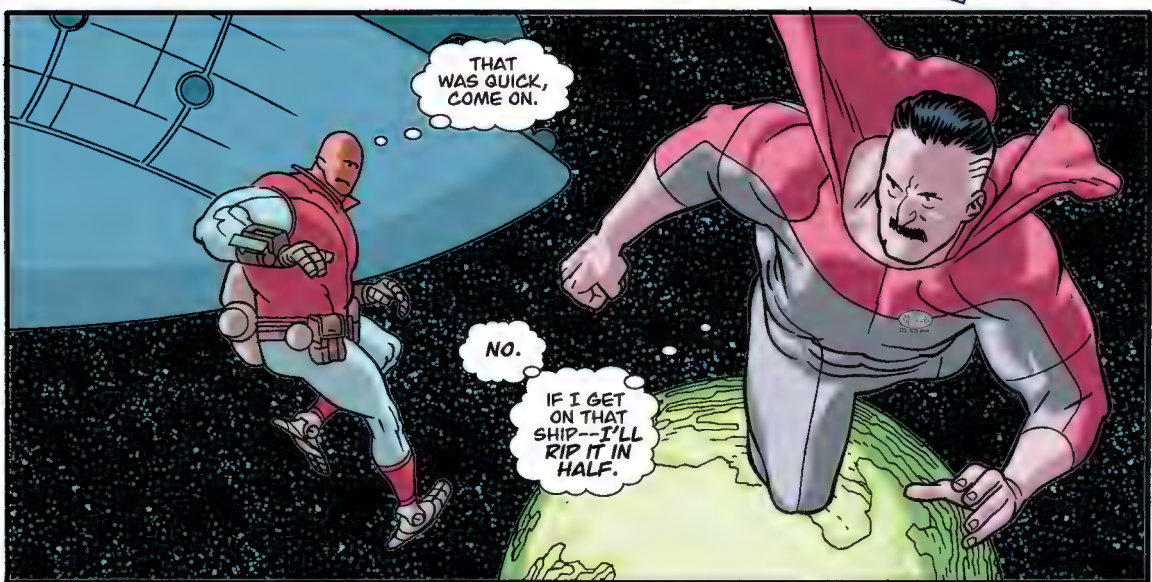
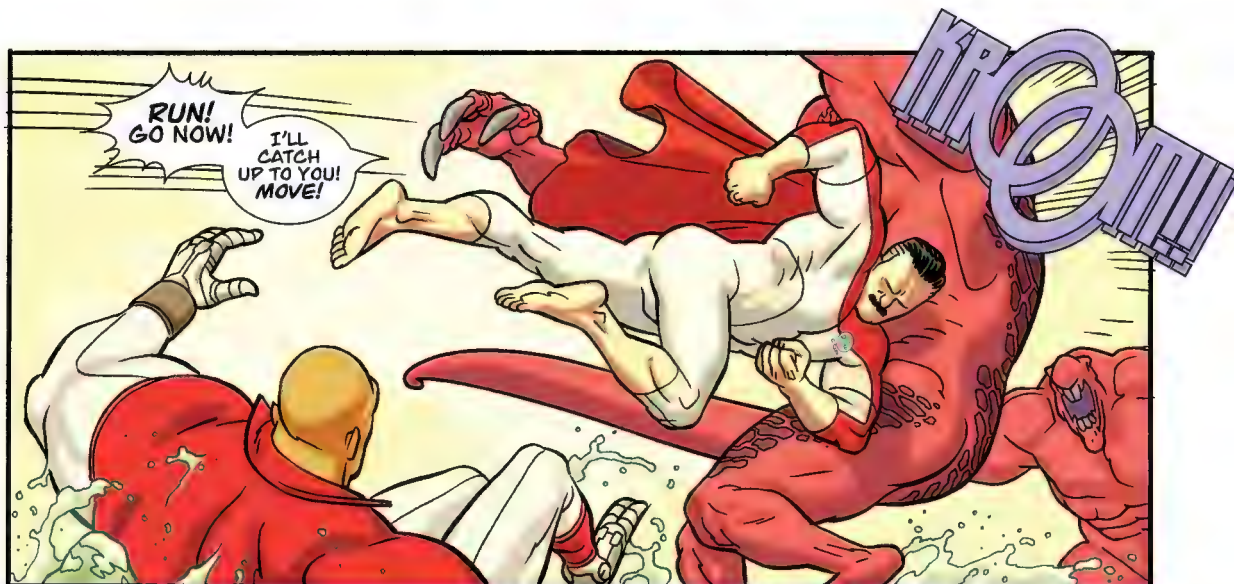
I'M TAKING THIS ONE
TO THE SHIP! SEE IF
YOU CAN FIND MORE.
ONCE THEY THAW
COMPLETELY--WE'RE
FINISHED!

THE
ROGNARR ARE
TOO STRONG TO
TRANSPORT.

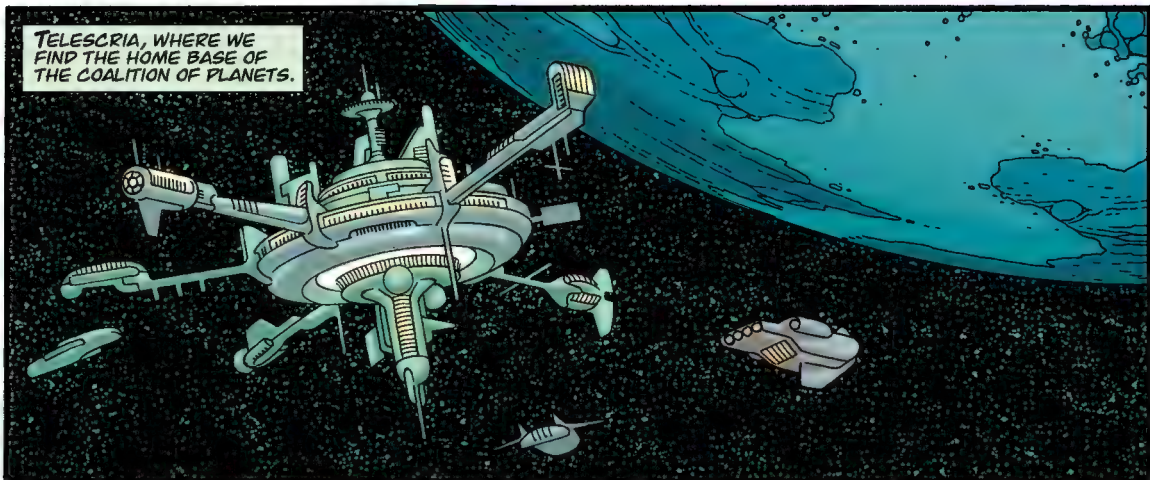








TELESCRIA, WHERE WE
FIND THE HOME BASE OF
THE COALITION OF PLANETS.



IT'S NOT A TOTAL LOSS. WE
KNOW WHERE THEY ARE--AND
THEY'RE ACTIVE AGAIN. WE
COULD DISTRACT A SQUAD OF
VILTRUMITES BY SENDING
THEM THERE... AND I'M NOT
COMPLETELY RULING OUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF CAPTURING
SOME TO TRAIN IN
SOME WAY.

WE'LL
FIGURE
SOMETHING
OUT.

WE'RE
NOT GOING
TO SUCCEED
EVERY
SINGLE
TIME.



THE SAME SHORT-TEMPERED
BLOOD RUNS THROUGH MY
VEINS AS WELL, NOLAN. YOU
SHOWED GREAT RESTRAINT
OUT THERE.

I'M
SORRY
MY PEOPLE
SCREWED
THIS ONE
UP.

BEST NOT
TO BRING
IT UP.

SERIOUSLY.



THANKFULLY, THERE ARE
FAR MORE POTENTIAL
WEAPONS LISTED IN YOUR
BOOKS... AND A FEW THINGS
I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK
INTO THAT YOU DIDN'T
WRITE ABOUT.

YOU HAVE
A LONG ROAD
AHEAD OF
YOU.



THE KLAXUS PLANT IS **POISONOUS** TO VILTRUMITES. IT CAN'T KILL US--BUT IT WOULD MAKE US PRETTY EASY TO DEFEAT IN AN OTHERWISE EVENLY MATCHED FIGHT.

THE PROBLEM IS THE PLANT IS **IMPOSSIBLE** TO KEEP FROM GROWING. IT NEEDS VERY LITTLE WATER OR SUNLIGHT AND GROWS AT AN INSANELY RAPID RATE.

SO... WE INFESTED THIS PLANET WITH THESE SINLAK BEETLES, WHICH EAT THE PLANT FASTER THAN IT CAN GROW--AND ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXTERMINATE.

MAYBE WE CAN EXTRACT SOME OF THE POISON FROM PLANT MATERIAL INGESTED BY THE BEETLE...

IT IS TRUE, WE WERE ABLE TO FEND OFF THE VILTRUMITE SPONSORED KRESH INVASION OF GELDARIA.

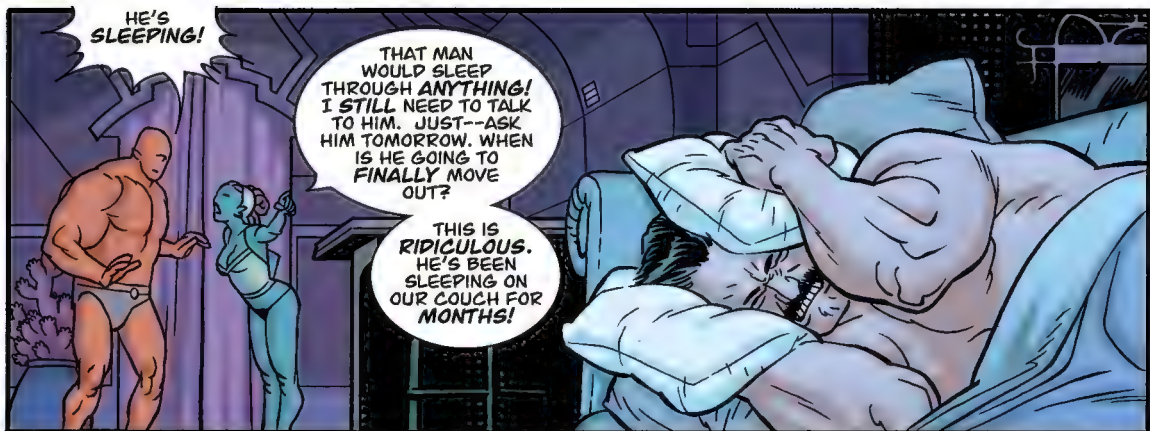
THERE IS ONE THAT MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU.*

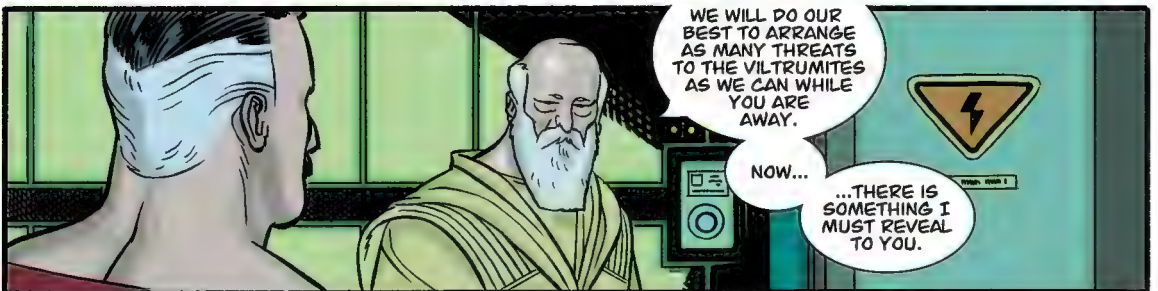
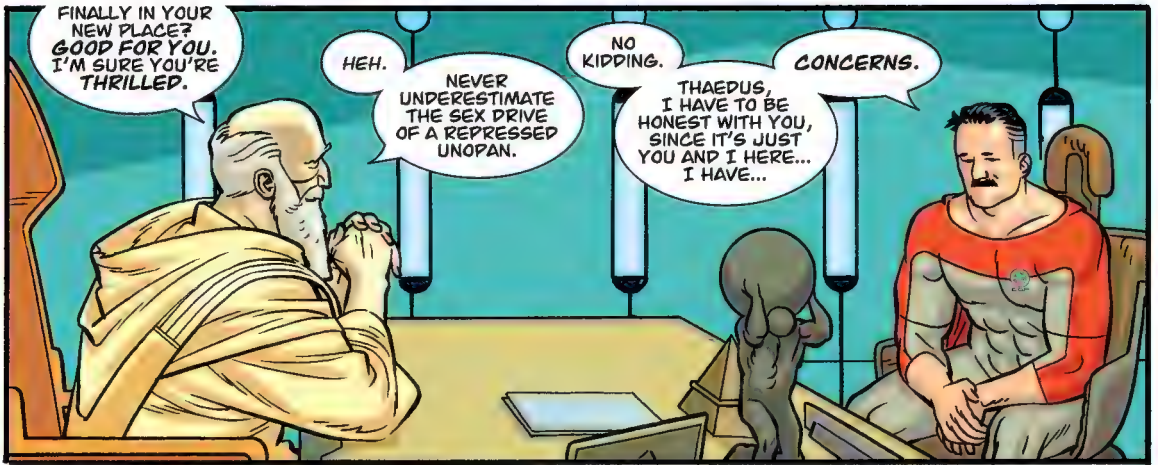
THEIR OLD MIGRATION PATHS CAME RIGHT THROUGH THIS SPOT ON THE STARMAPS.


IF WE COULD CATCH ONE OF THESE IT WOULD BE A HUGE HELP. **SPACE SHARKS** ARE BAD NEWS.

*HOLY CRAP! HE'S TALKING ABOUT TECH JACKET! YOU SHOULD TOTALLY ORDER THAT TRADE PAPERBACK, DUDE.









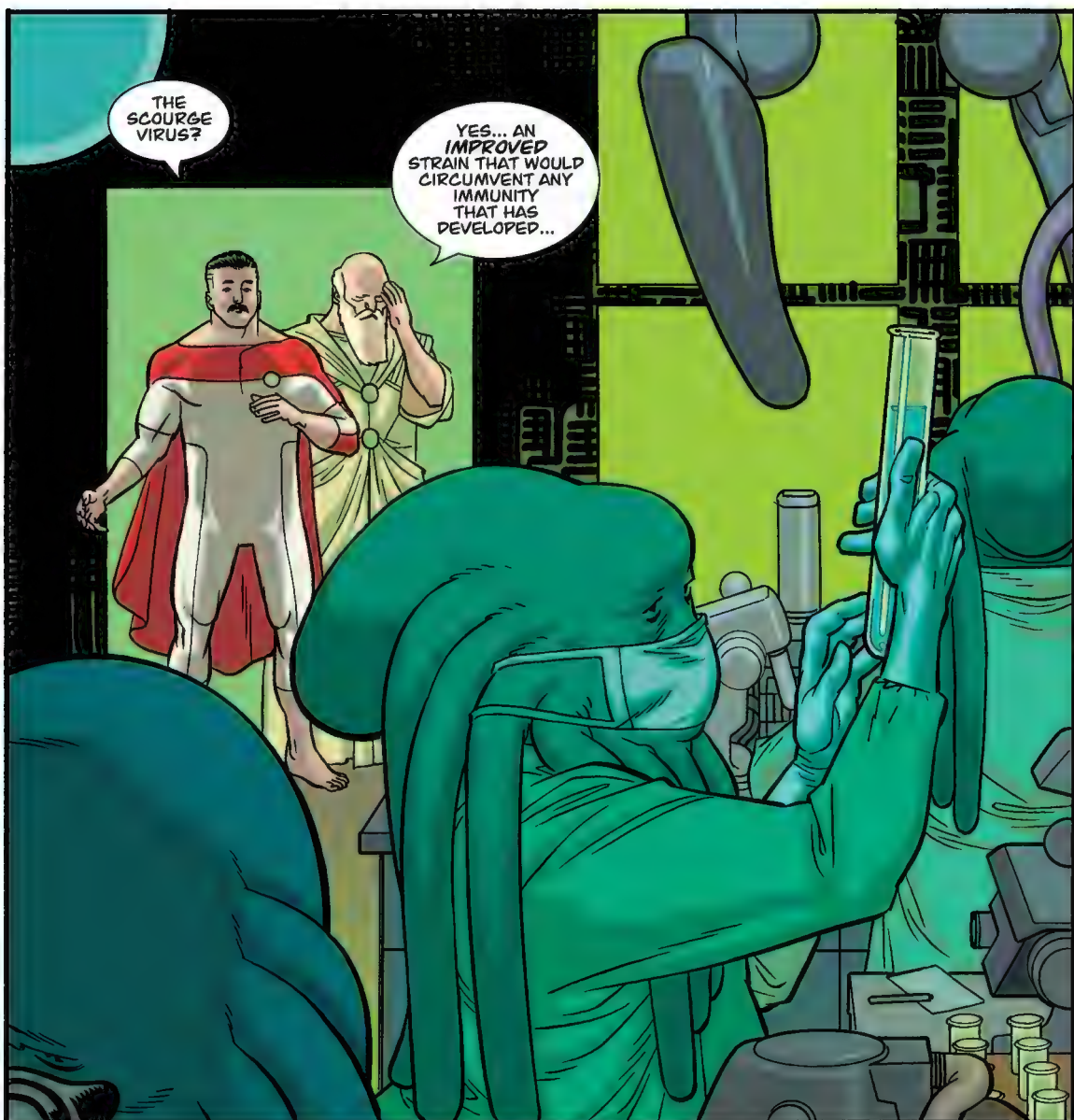
WHEN YOU
TOLD ME OF
OUR PEOPLE'S
GENOCIDE... I WASN'T
COMPLETELY
UNWARE OF
WHAT HAD
TRANSPIRED.

I TURNED
MY BACK ON MY
PEOPLE BECAUSE I
GREW TO BELIEVE
THEIR ACTIONS TO BE,
FOR LACK OF A BETTER
WORD... EVIL. I HAVE
DEDICATED MY LIFE
TO BRINGING AN
END TO THEIR
TYRANNY.

I WILL STOP
AT NOTHING TO
BRING AN END
TO THIS AGE OF
VIOLENCE AND FEAR.
BUT I NEVER KNEW...
I WAS UNAWARE OF
THE EXTENT OF THE
DAMAGE I'D
BROUGHT TO THE
VILTRUMITES.

STEP
THROUGH
THIS
DOOR.

THE WORST
THING TO EVER
HAPPEN TO OUR
PEOPLE... IT WAS
MY GENETIC
SIGNATURE
THAT MADE IT
POSSIBLE...





CHAPTER THREE

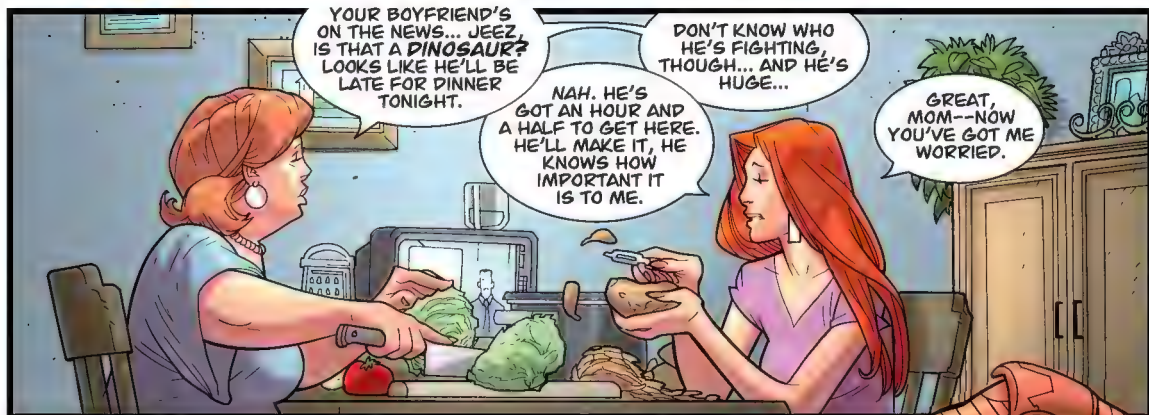
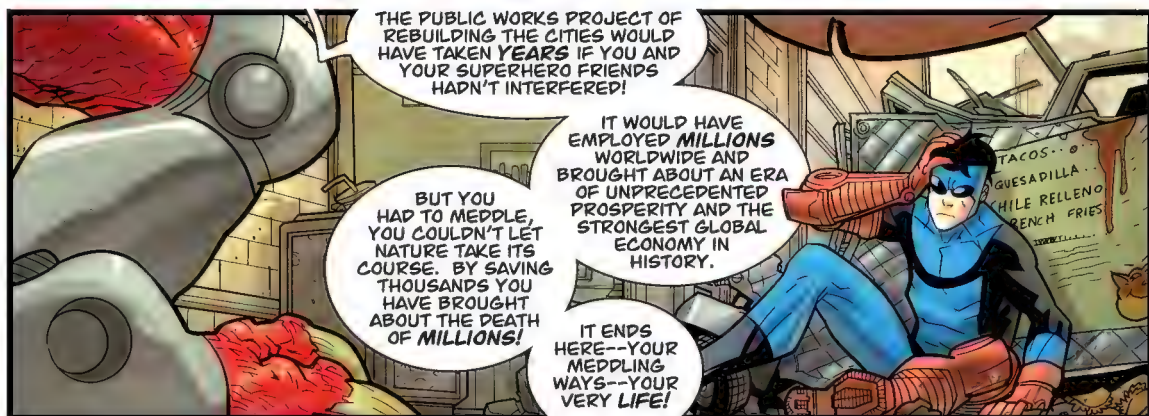
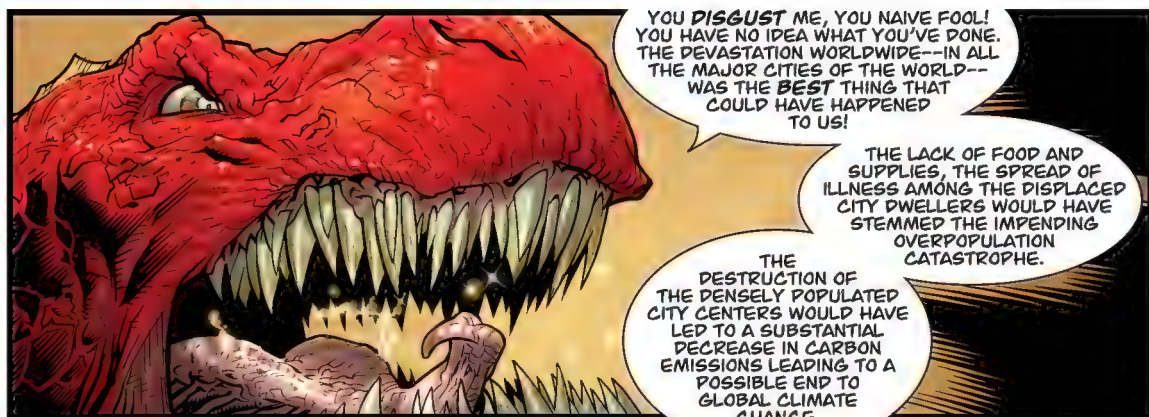


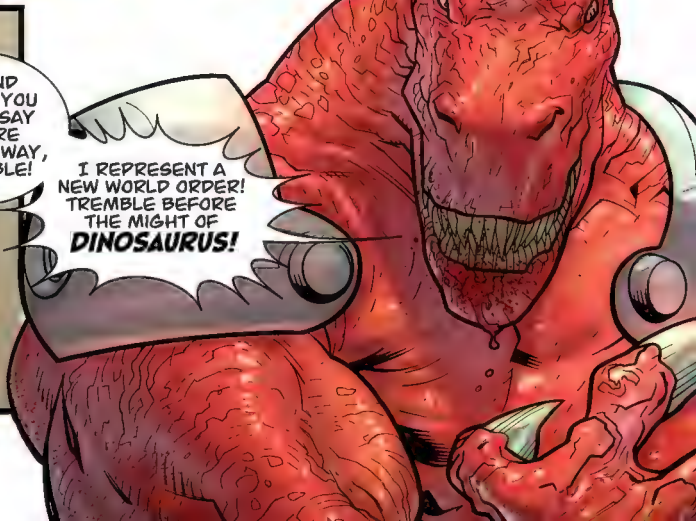


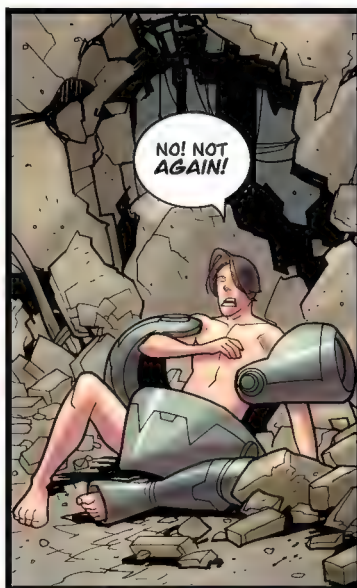
UNGH.

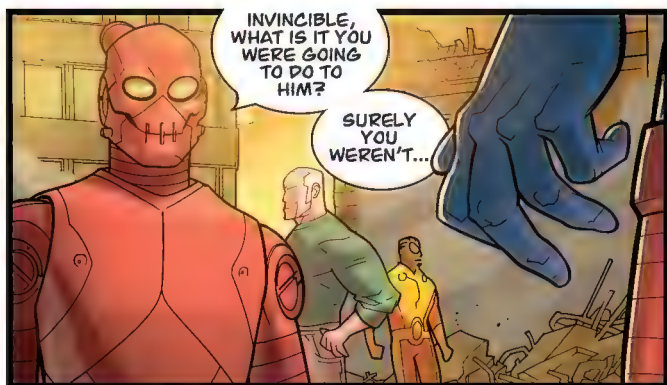
ALMOST
THERE.

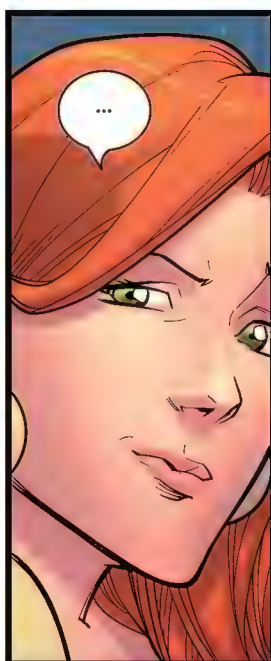
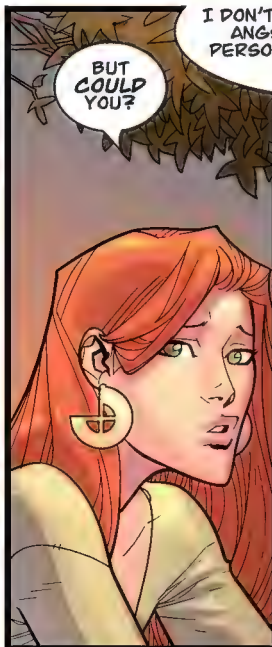
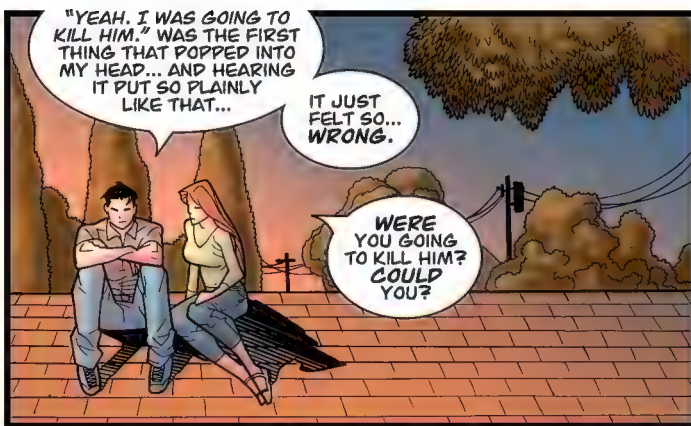


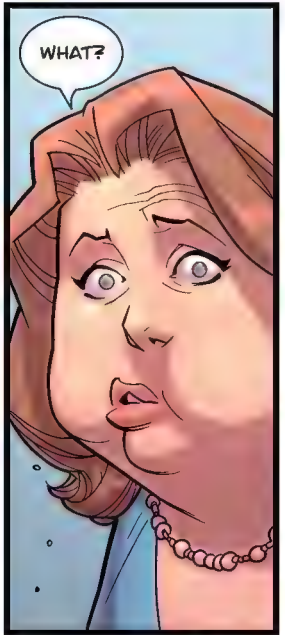
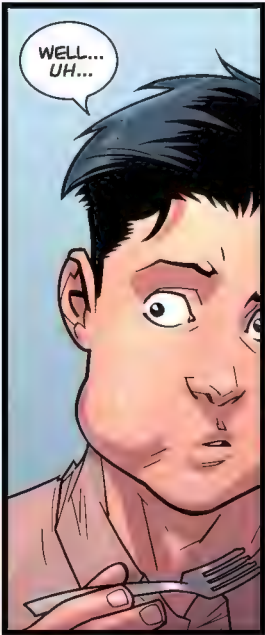
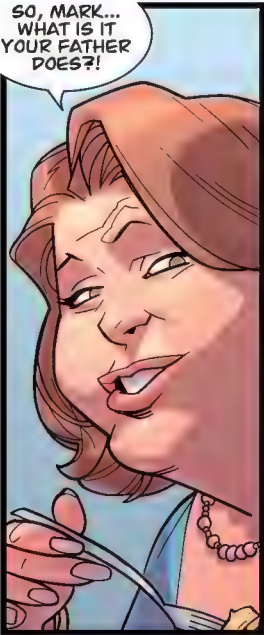
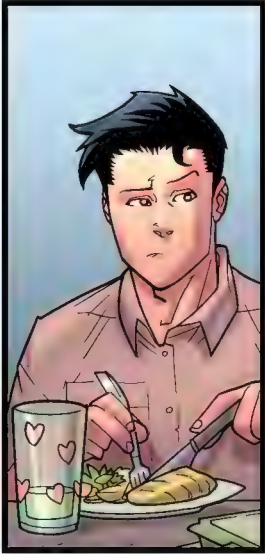
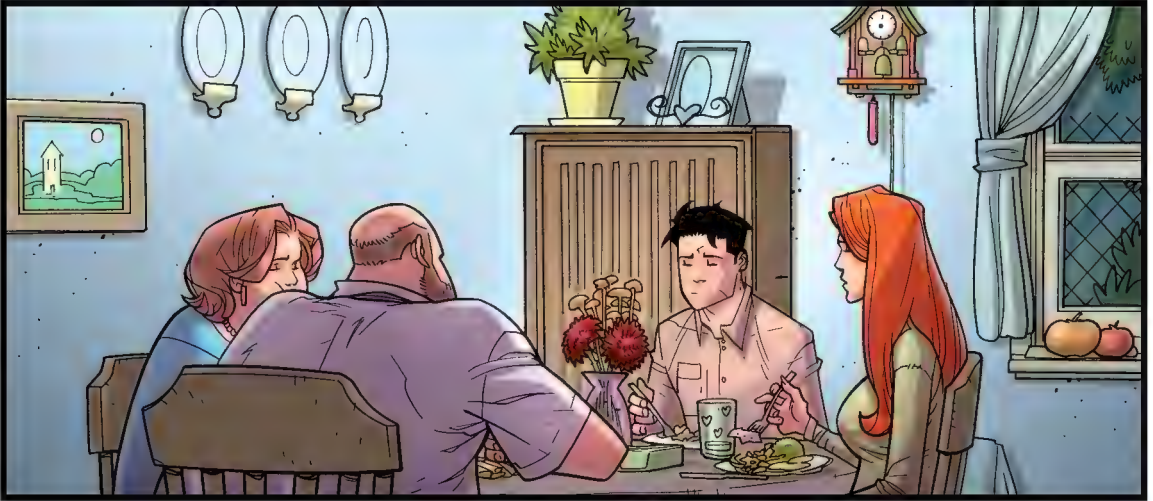


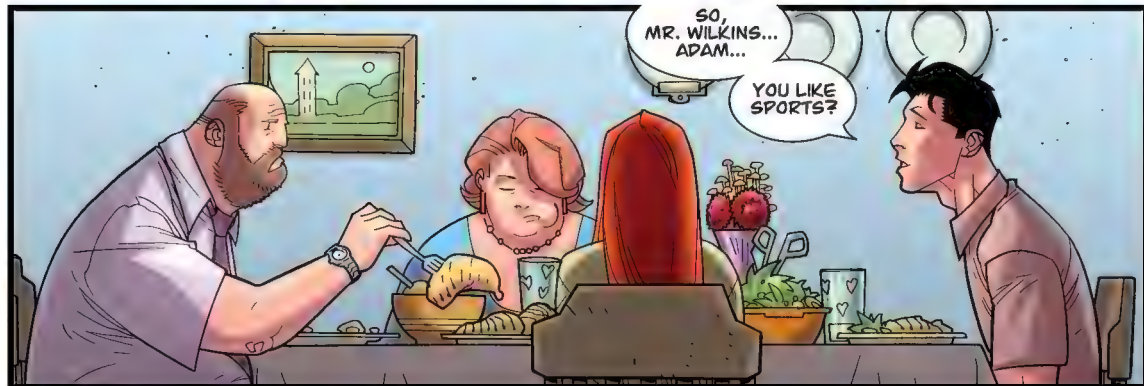
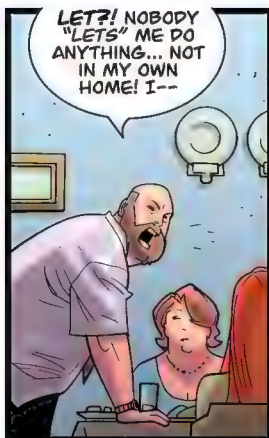
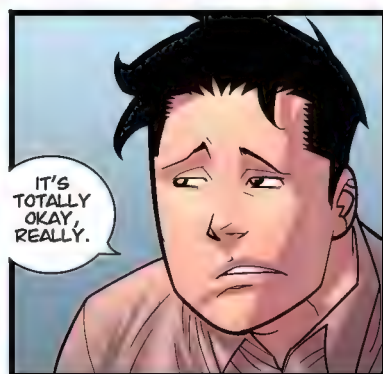


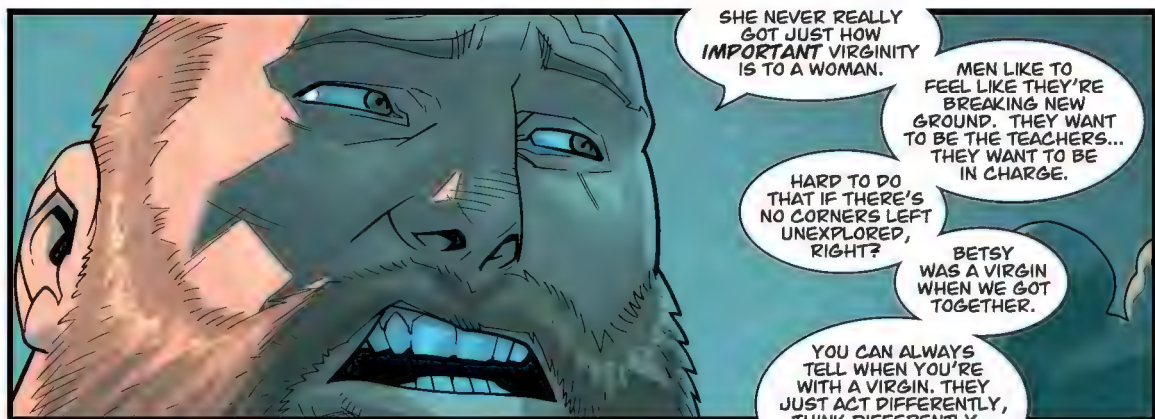


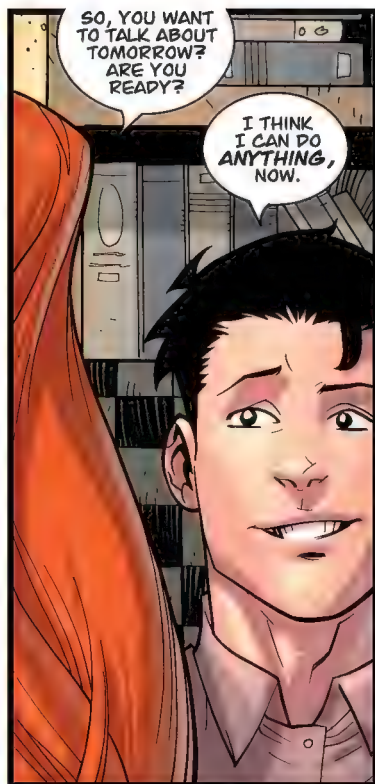
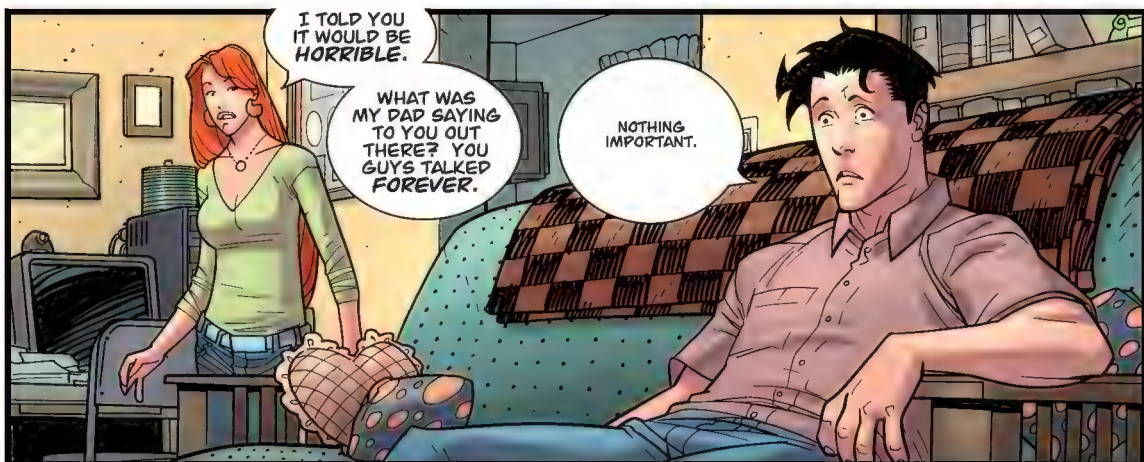
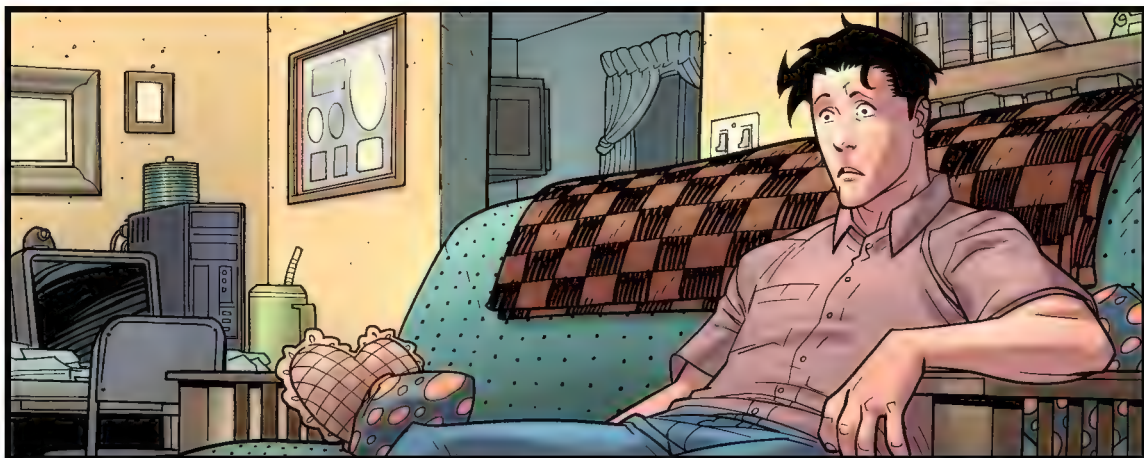


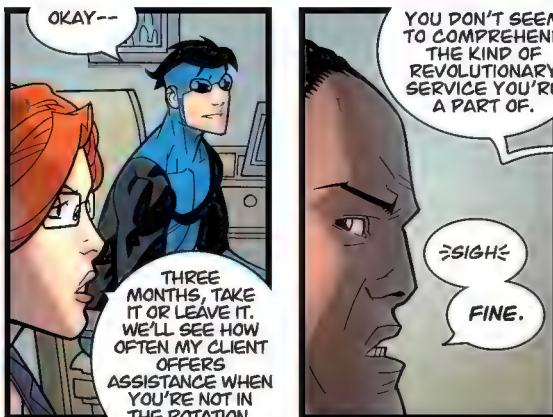
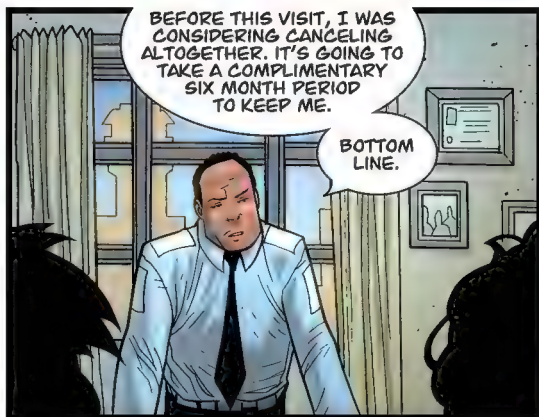
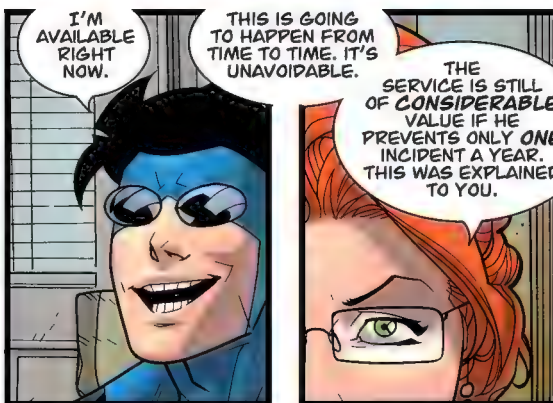
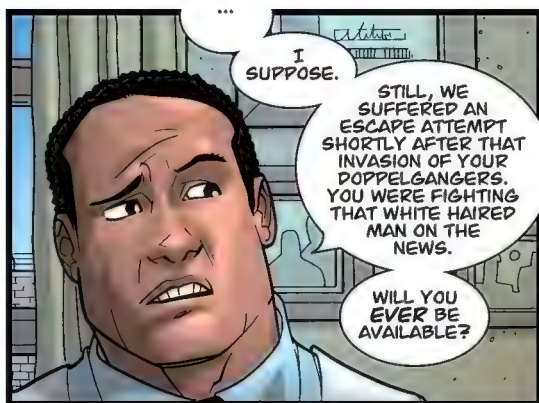
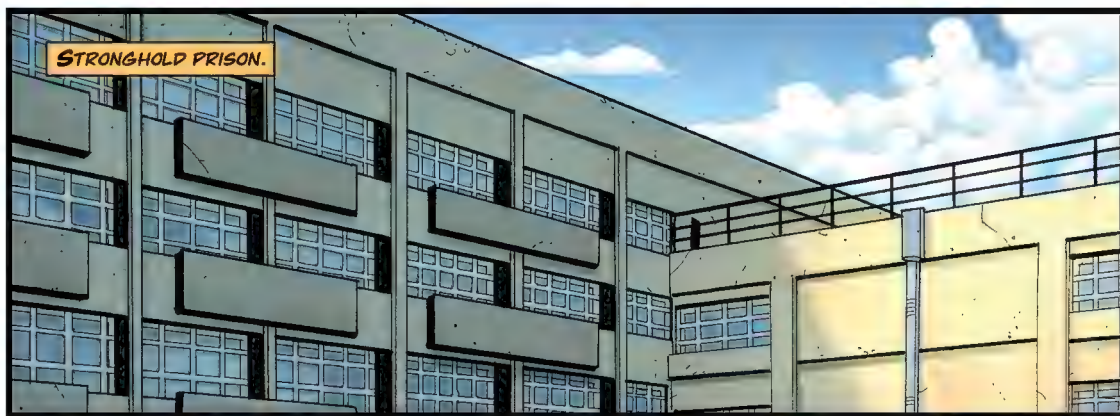














OH, WOW!
THAT WAS
AWESOME! YOU
WERE AMAZING
IN THERE!

SOMEONE
HAD TO BE. LORD,
MARK--YOU'RE
SUCH A PUSH OVER.
YOU GIVE HIM SIX
FREE MONTHS AND
WE'LL NEVER
HAVE OUR OWN
PLACE!



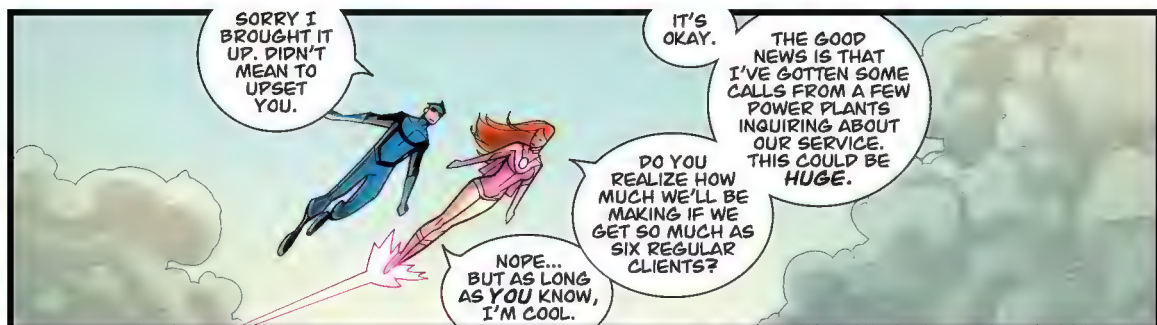
SORRY.

YOU OKAY
TO FLY? I
MEAN, YOUR
POWERS--?



I WOULDN'T
BE FLYING SO
HIGH IF YOU
WEREN'T RIGHT
HERE. I DON'T
KNOW--THEY
HAVEN'T ACTED
UP IN A FEW
DAYS... MAYBE
THAT'S
OVER.

ONE
CAN ONLY
HOPE...



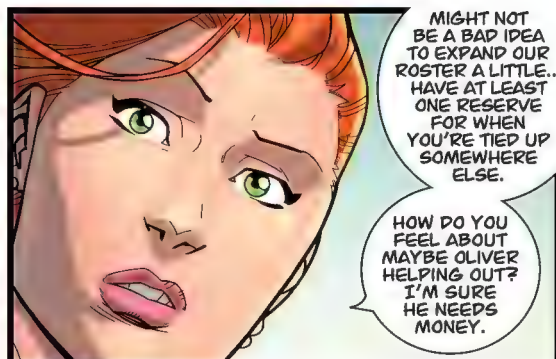
SORRY I
BROUGHT IT
UP. DIDN'T
MEAN TO
UPSET
YOU.

IT'S
OKAY.

THE GOOD
NEWS IS THAT
I'VE GOTTEN SOME
CALLS FROM A FEW
POWER PLANTS
INQUIRING ABOUT
OUR SERVICE.
THIS COULD BE
HUGE.

DO YOU
REALIZE HOW
MUCH WE'LL BE
MAKING IF WE
GET SO MUCH AS
SIX REGULAR
CLIENTS?

NOPE...
BUT AS LONG
AS YOU KNOW,
I'M COOL.



MIGHT NOT
BE A BAD IDEA
TO EXPAND OUR
ROSTER A LITTLE...
HAVE AT LEAST
ONE RESERVE
FOR WHEN
YOU'RE TIED UP
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

HOW DO YOU
FEEL ABOUT
MAYBE OLIVER
HELPING OUT?
I'M SURE
HE NEEDS
MONEY.



SPEAK
OF THE
DEVIL...



HEY GUYS--
YOU HEADED
BACK TO THE
HOUSE?

MOM'S OUT
WITH PAUL
TONIGHT. FIGURED
YOU MIGHT... WELL...
WANT TO KNOW
YOU HAVE THE
HOUSE ALL TO
YOURSELF.

Y'KNOW...
SEX.



CUTE.

WHOA,
MAN--NICE
COSTUME. I
LIKE IT. WHAT
BROUGHT
THAT ON?

I JUST WENT A
FEW ROUNDS WITH
THE ELEPHANT.
HE RIPPED MY
COSTUME
UP.

YOU
FOUGHT
HIM BEFORE,
RIGHT?



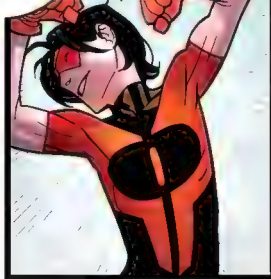
SEEMS LIKE I HAVE...
I DON'T REALLY
REMEMBER. MAYBE
ONCE.



WELL, ANYWAY, MY
COSTUME GOT ALL
RIPPED UP. I WENT
TO ART FOR A FIX AND
HE SAID "YOU'RE
GETTING A LITTLE
OLD FOR THE
EXPOSED LEG
BIT."

I
AGREED--
AND THEN
PRESTO
CHANGO--

--YOUNG
OMNI-MAN
IS BORN!



WELL, I'M GOING
BACK OUT ON
PATROL--YOU GUYS
HAVE FUN BACK AT
THE HOUSE.

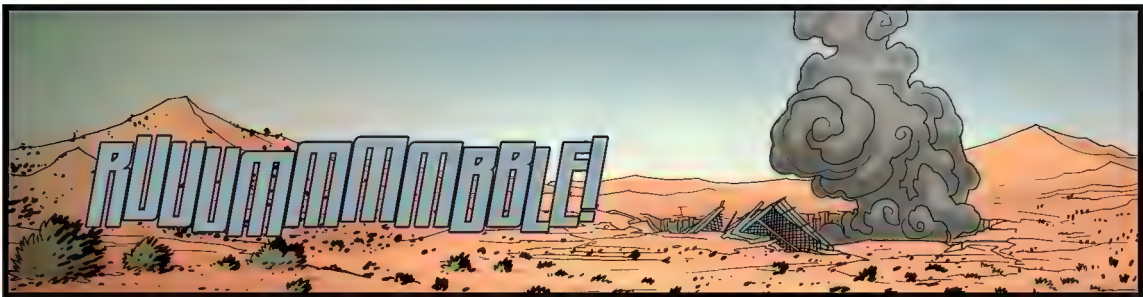
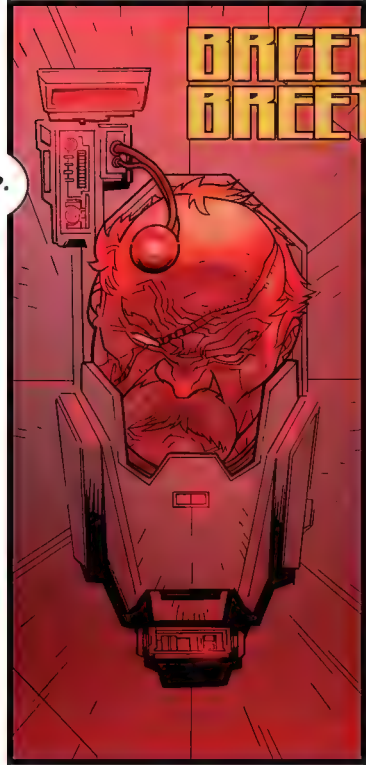
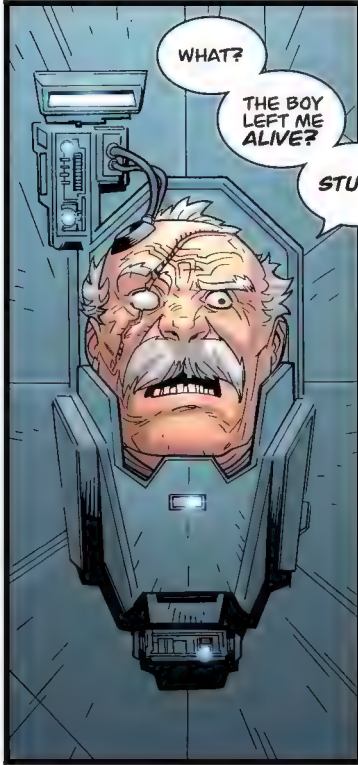
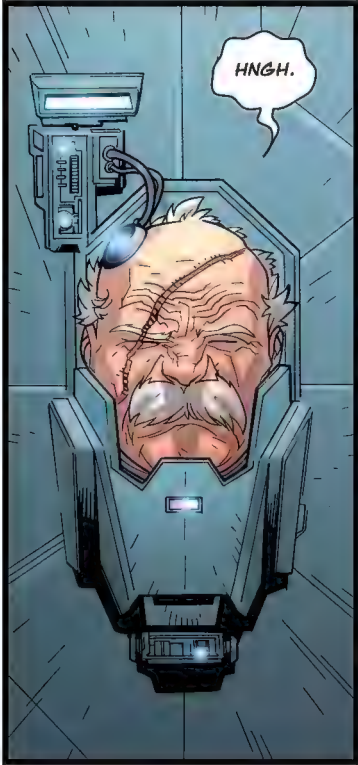

WINK.

RUDE.

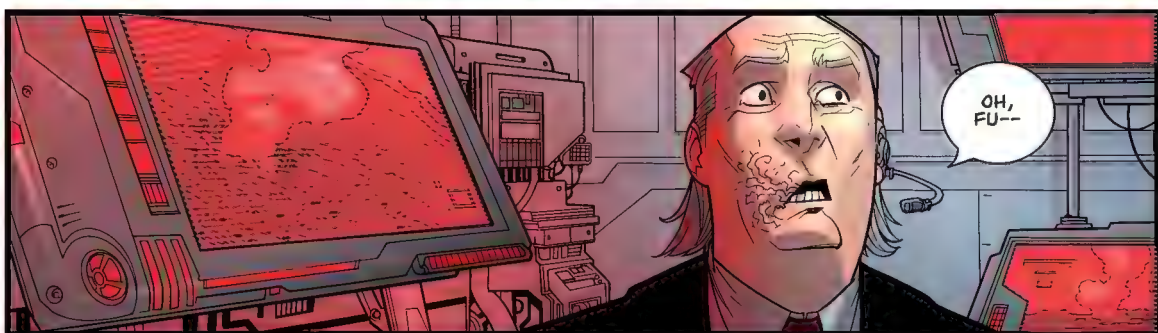
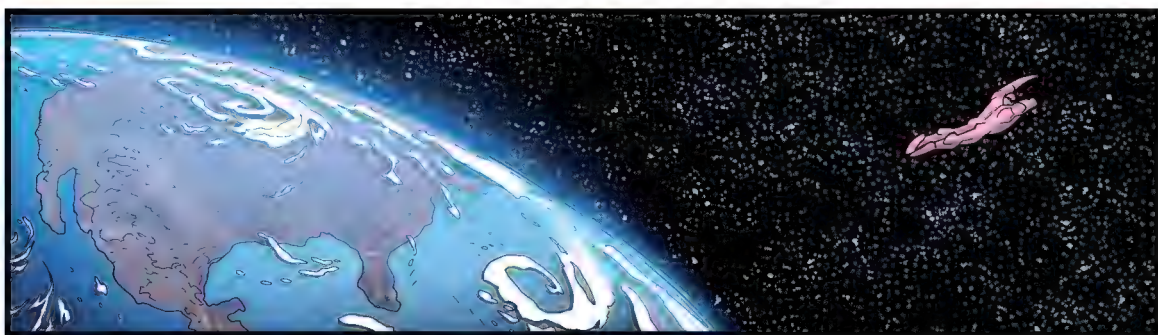
EH... HE'S
NOT WRONG,
THOUGH.

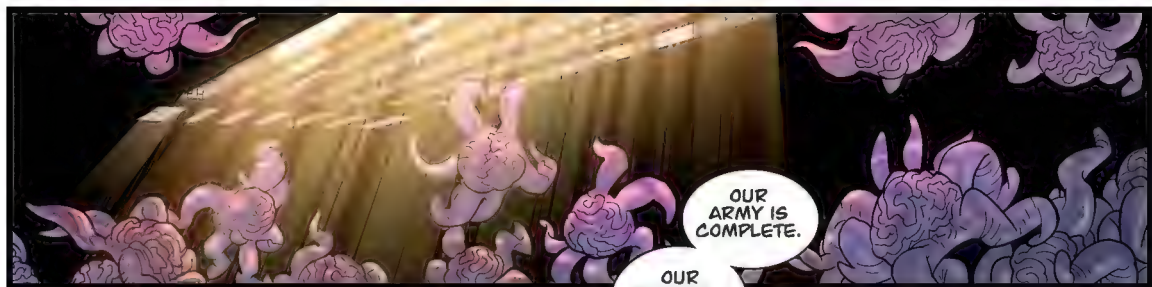
HOUSE
ALL TO
OURSELVES--
WEE!

THE BLOCK. REMOTE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY OUTPOST IN THE MOJAVE DESERT.



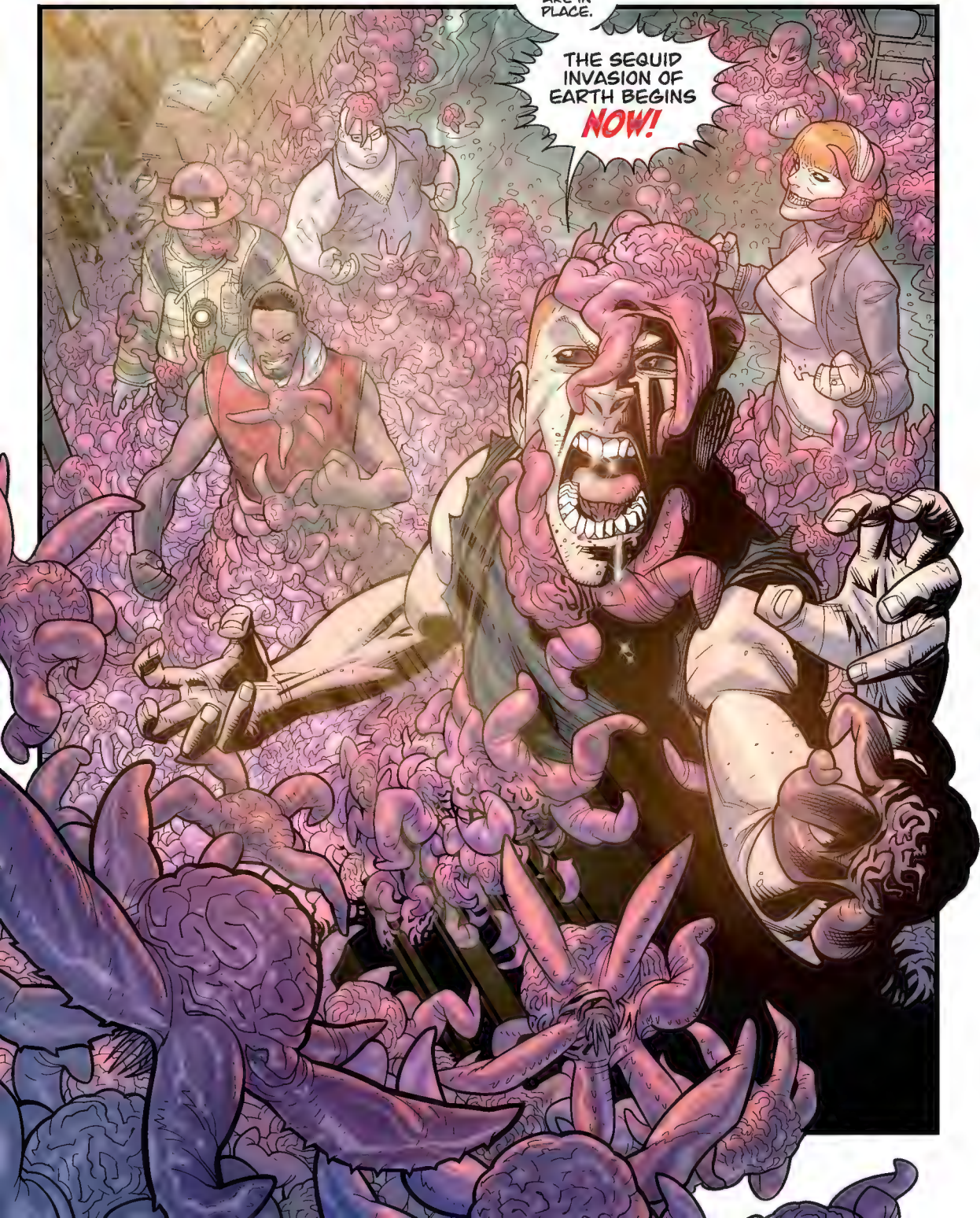


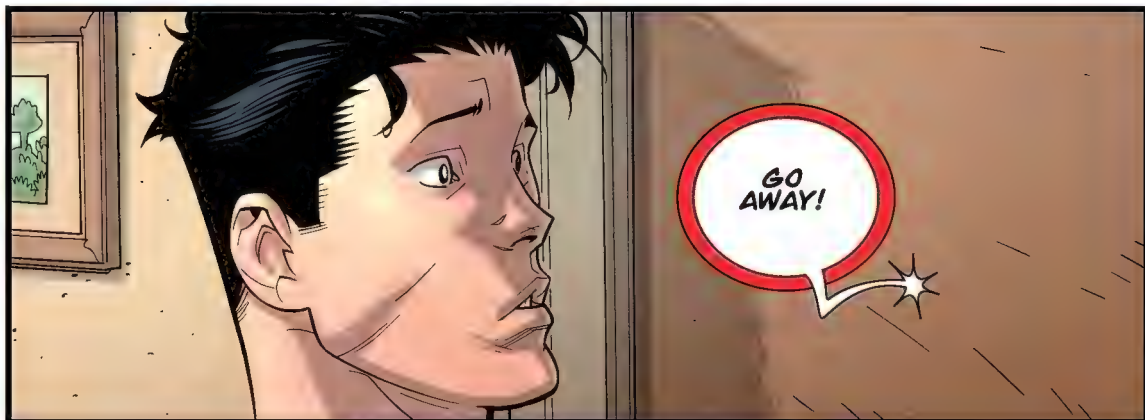
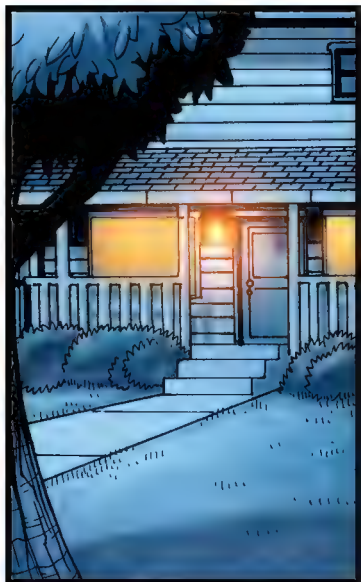


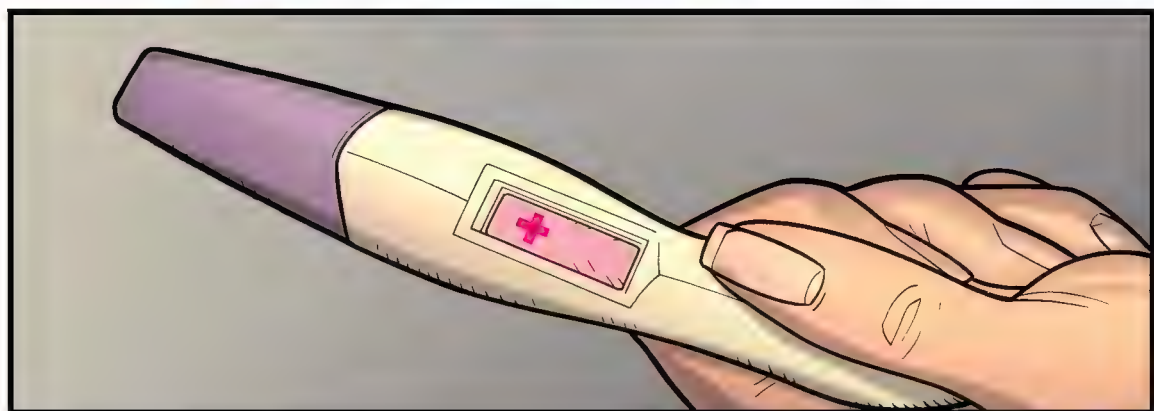


OUR
GENERALS
ARE IN
PLACE.

THE SEQUID
INVASION OF
EARTH BEGINS
NOW!









CHAPTER FOUR

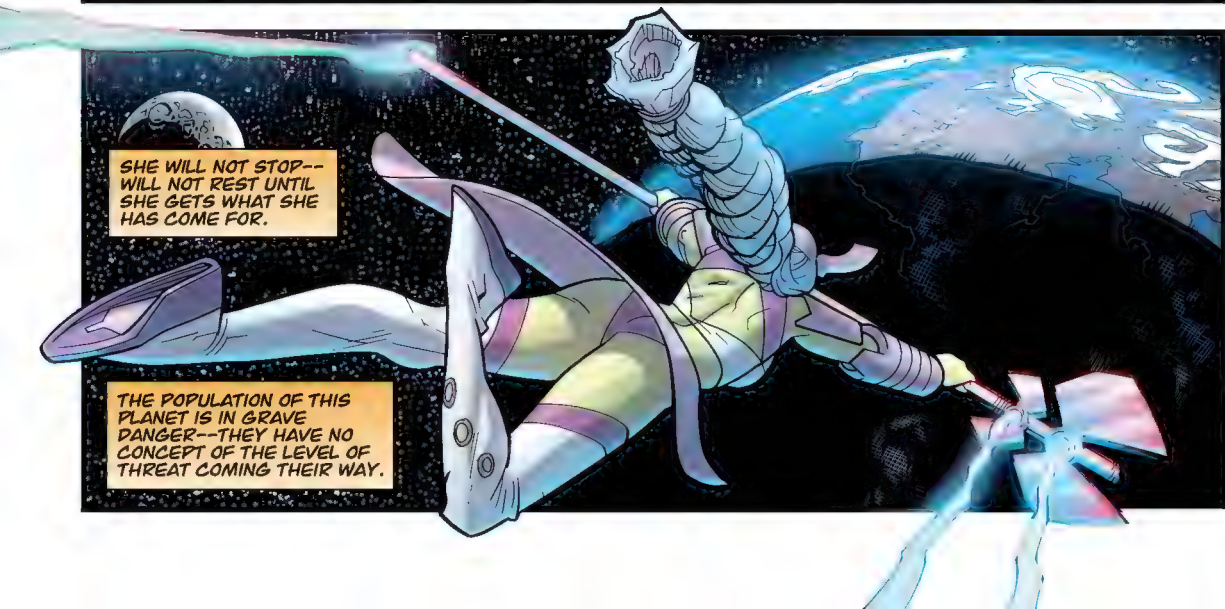




**SHE IS UNIVERSA,
WARRIOR QUEEN TO
A FAR OFF WORLD.**

**SHE HAS TRAVELED COUNTLESS
MILES TO THE PLANET EARTH.
HER REASONS FOR DOING SO
WILL PUT THE ENTIRE PLANET
IN JEOPARDY.**

**SHE IS AS DEADLY AS
SHE IS RELENTLESS.**



**SHE WILL NOT STOP--
WILL NOT REST UNTIL
SHE GETS WHAT SHE
HAS COME FOR.**

**THE POPULATION OF THIS
PLANET IS IN GRAVE
DANGER--THEY HAVE NO
CONCEPT OF THE LEVEL OF
THREAT COMING THEIR WAY.**

BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF EARTH HAVE FAR MORE PRESSING CONCERNS AT THE MOMENT.

KROOM!

WROOM!

HEAR ME, HUMAN RACE!
IT IS TIME TO MEET YOUR NEW MASTERS!

TOGETHER WE WILL FORM A NEW RACE--A NEW CIVILIZATION. WE WILL LIVE TOGETHER AS ONE--A NEW COMBINED RACE OF HUMAN AND SEQUID!

EMBRACE US OR DIE!

THE PEOPLE OF EARTH DO NOT LIVE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF FEAR. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN ALIEN INVASIONS, ENTIRE CITIES LEVELED AND VILLAINS WHO THREATEN ALL LIFE ON EARTH...

THESE ATTACKS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. THERE ARE DAYS, WEEKS, EVEN MONTHS OF PEACE.

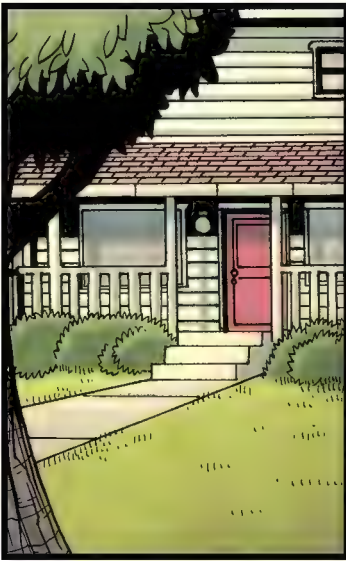
AND EVEN ON DAYS WHEN THERE IS AN ATTACK OF SOME KIND, ON SOME LARGE SCALE, IT IS MOST OFTEN AN ISOLATED EVENT, AFFECTING ONE AREA, EASILY HANDLED BY ONE COSTUMED HERO.

IT IS A RARE OCCASION THAT TWO THREATS, OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE, WOULD SOMEHOW OCCUR ON THE SAME DAY...

...BUT THIS IS ONE
OF THOSE DAYS.



THERE.



ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN ACTING... DISTANT SINCE LAST NIGHT. I SWEAR MY MOM HAS NO CLUE YOU SPENT THE NIGHT.

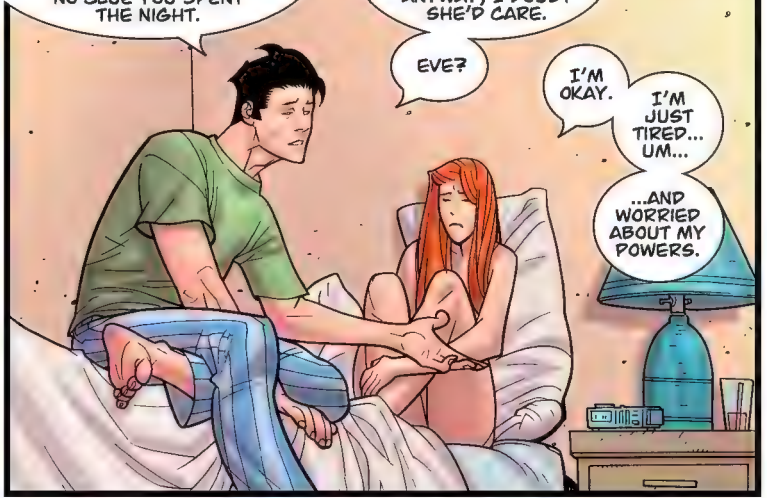
SHE WAS OUT SUPER-LATE--PROBABLY STILL ASLEEP. IT'S COOL ANYWAY, I DOUBT SHE'D CARE.

EVE?

I'M OKAY.

I'M JUST TIRED... UM...

...AND WORRIED ABOUT MY POWERS.



BUT YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY MORE PROBLEMS WITH THEM, RIGHT? I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A ONE TIME THING.

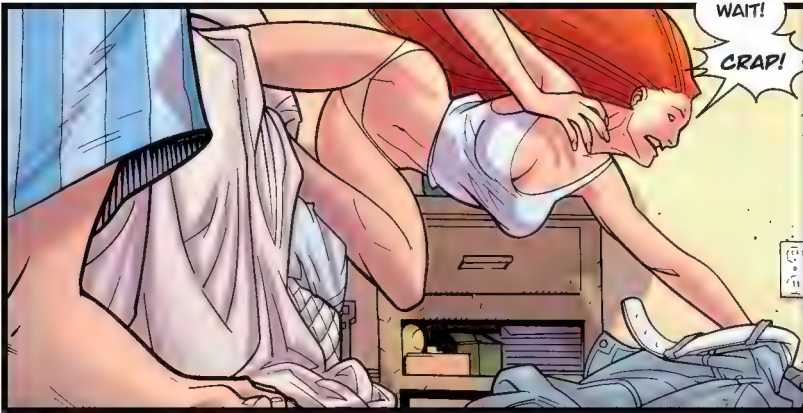
DID SOMETHING ELSE--



BREET! BREET!

WHAT IS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW. WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?



WAIT!

CRAP!



CRAP!

CRAP!

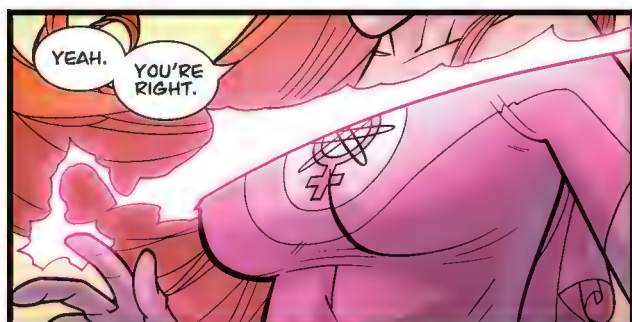
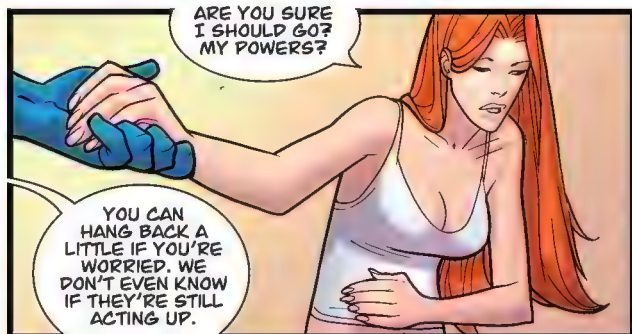
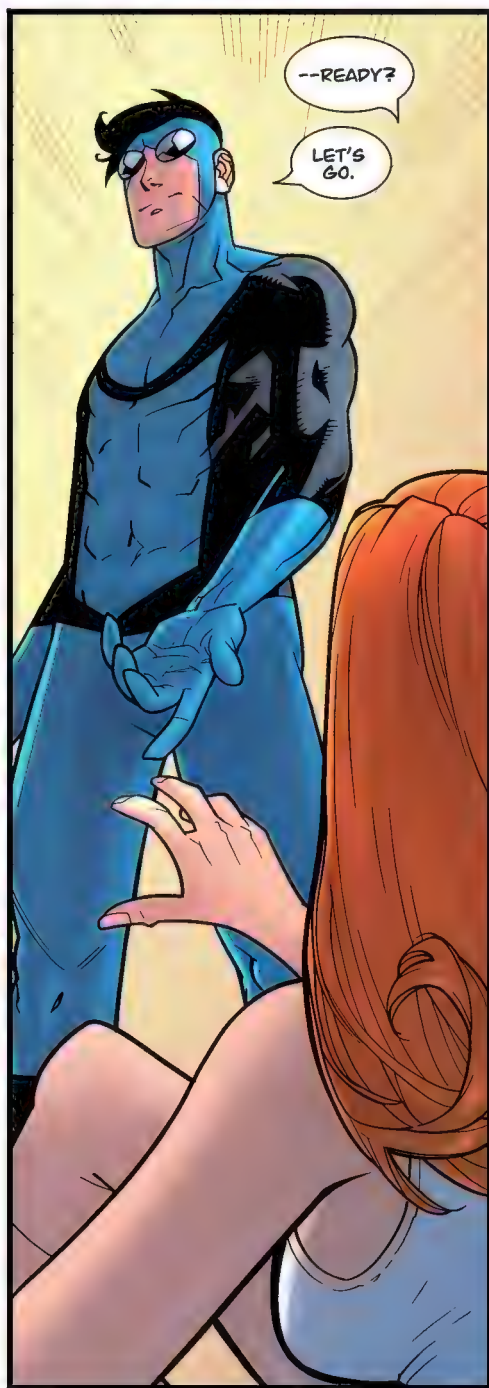
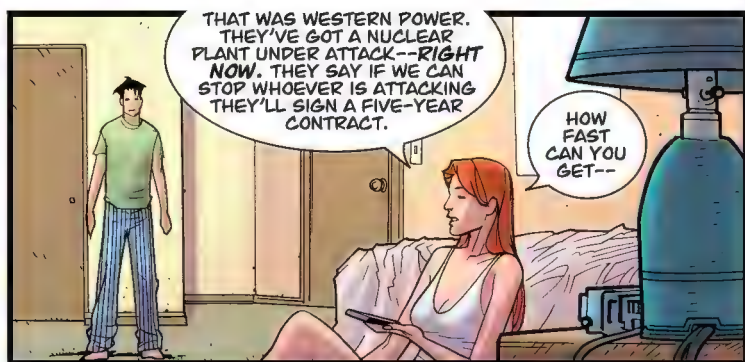
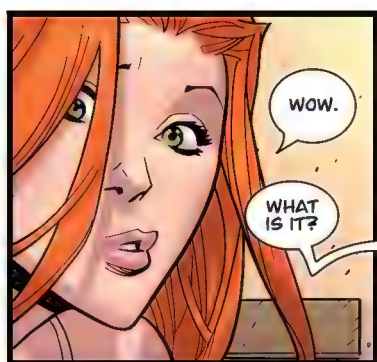


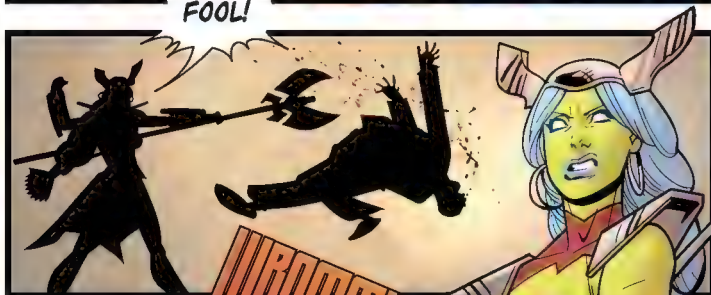
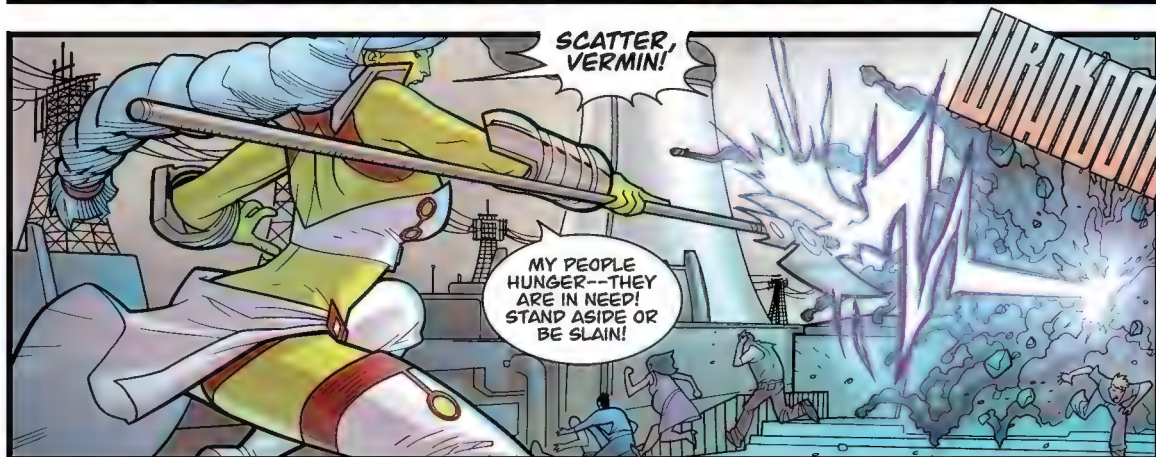
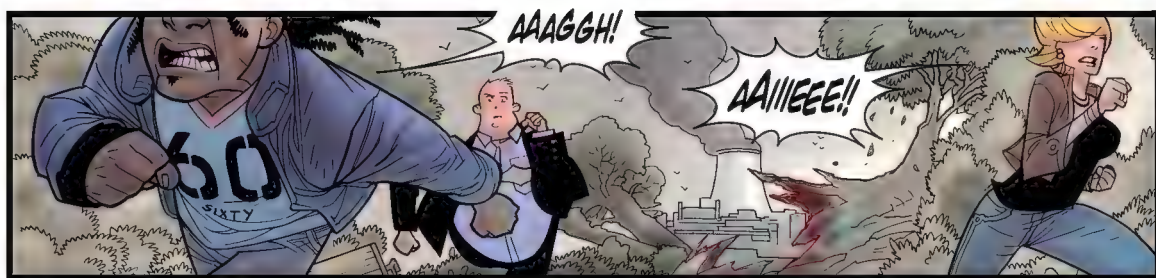
HI--INVINCIBLE INCORPORATED. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

RIGHT NOW?

OKAY. NO, WE CAN HANDLE THAT.

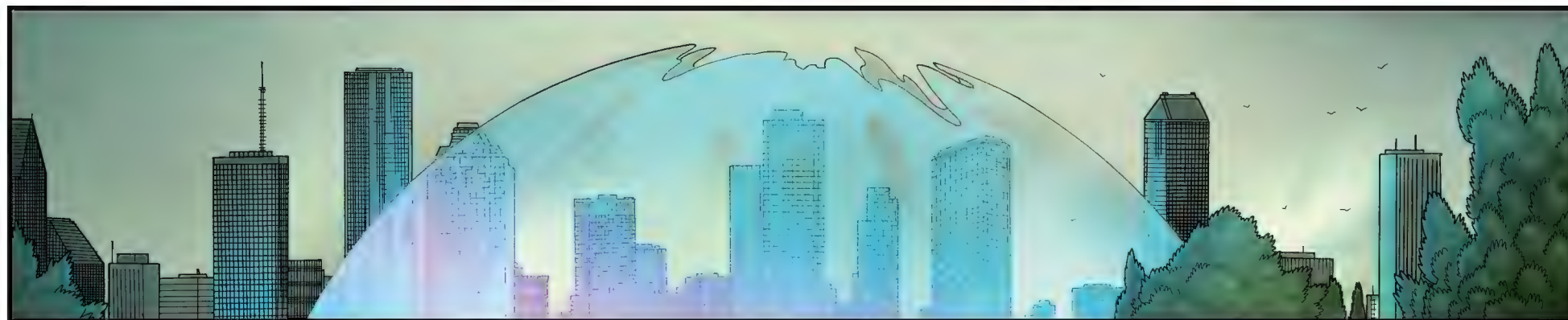
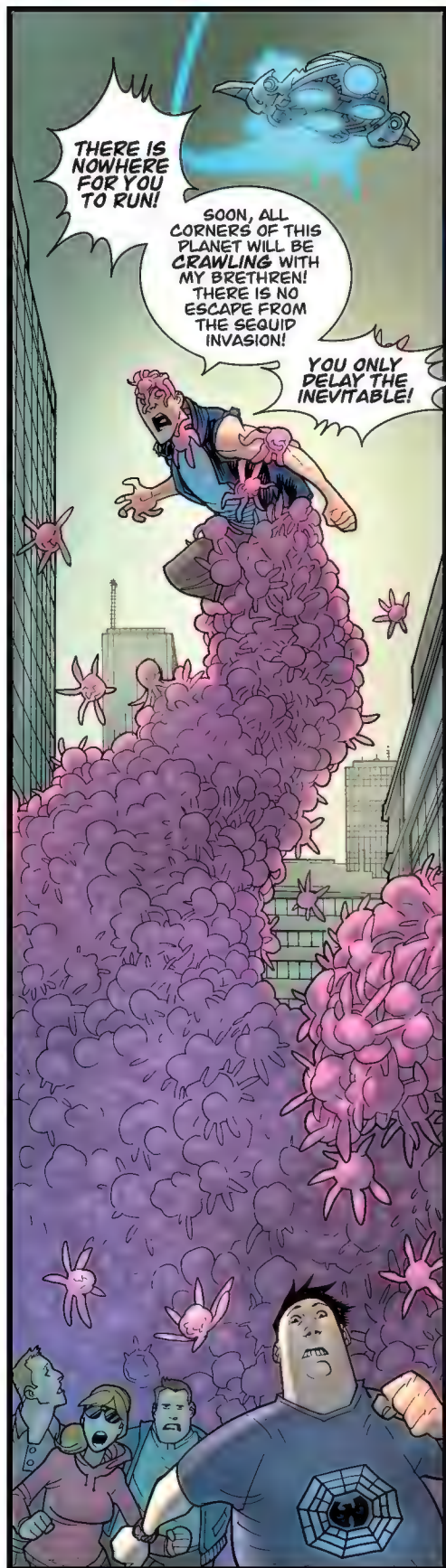
WE'RE ON OUR WAY.











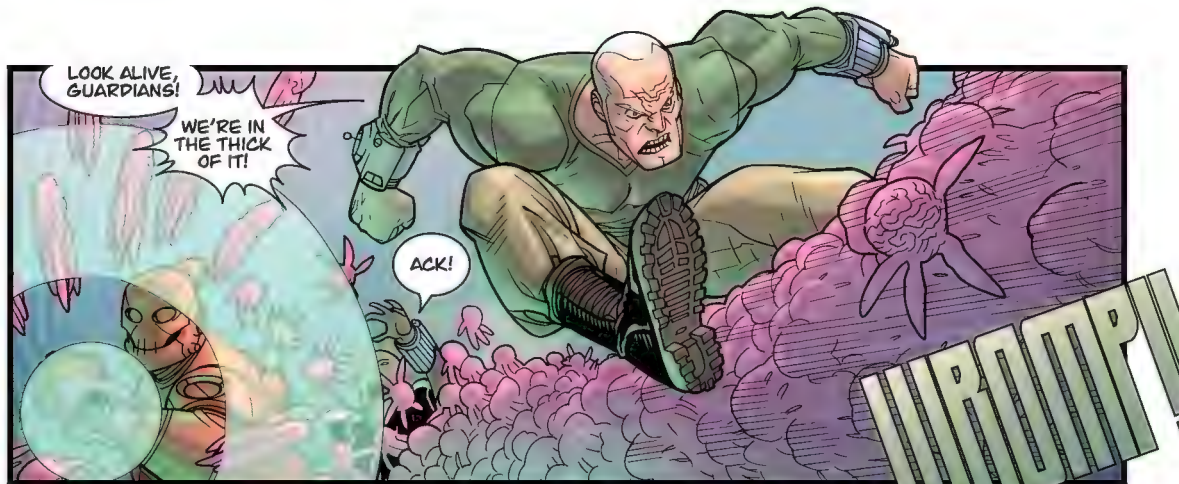


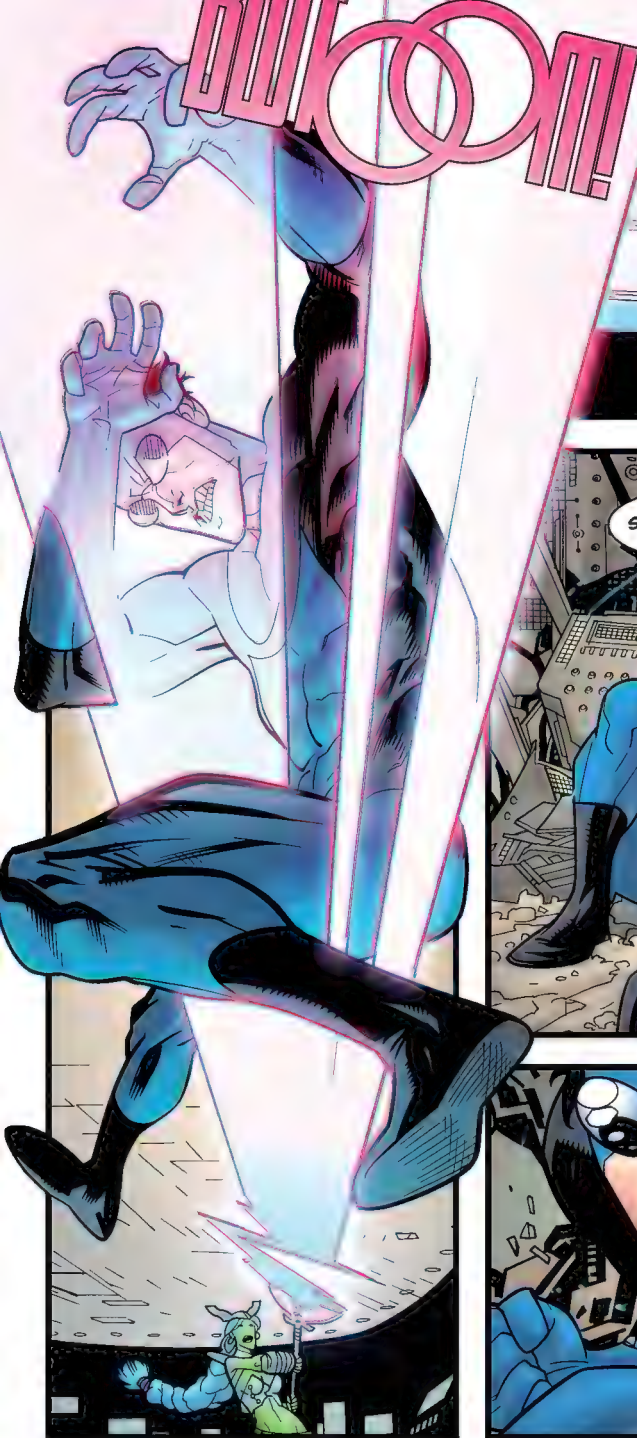
WE HAVE
TO WORK
FAST,
PEOPLE!

PRIORITY
ONE IS REMOVING
PEOPLE FROM THE
CONTAINMENT ZONE.
HIT THEM WITH THE
DARTS AND THEY'RE
TELEPORTED AWAY. THERE
ARE **THOUSANDS** OF
PEOPLE LEFT UNDER
THIS DOME--WE DON'T
GET THEM ALL--THE
SEQUIDS REMAIN
LINKED.

AS LONG
AS THEY HAVE
AT LEAST **ONE**
HOST TO ATTACH
THEMSELVES TO
THEIR MINDS
REMAIN LINKED--
NO HOST,
AND THEY'RE
MINDLESS
DRONES.

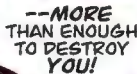
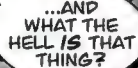
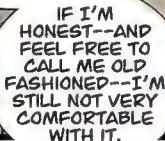
I DON'T
THINK I
HAVE TO TELL
YOU WHAT
HAPPENS IF
WE FAIL.

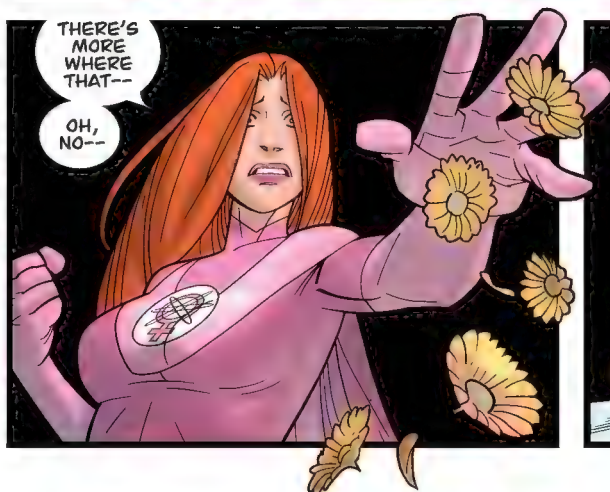


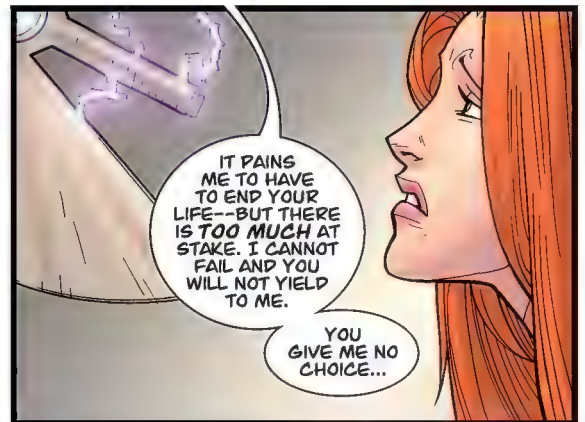
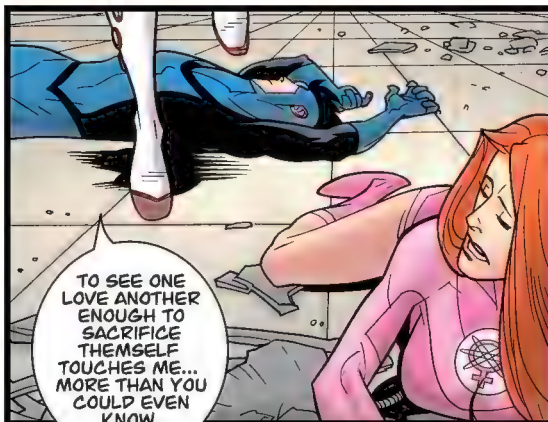


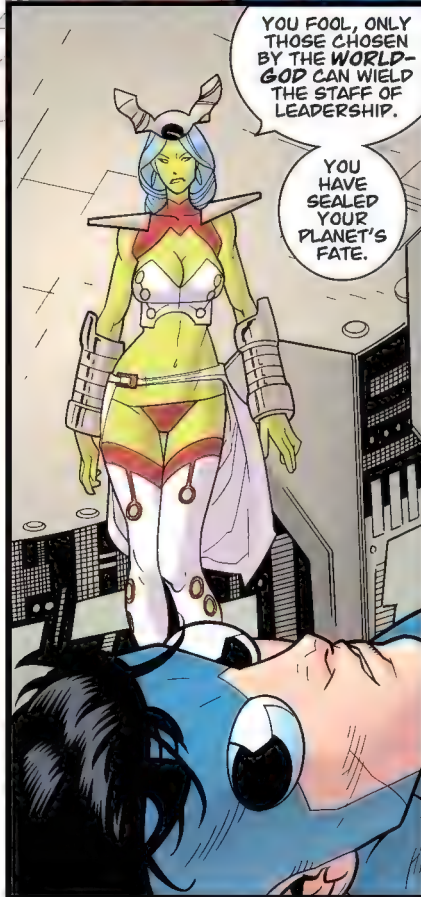
WHUDD!

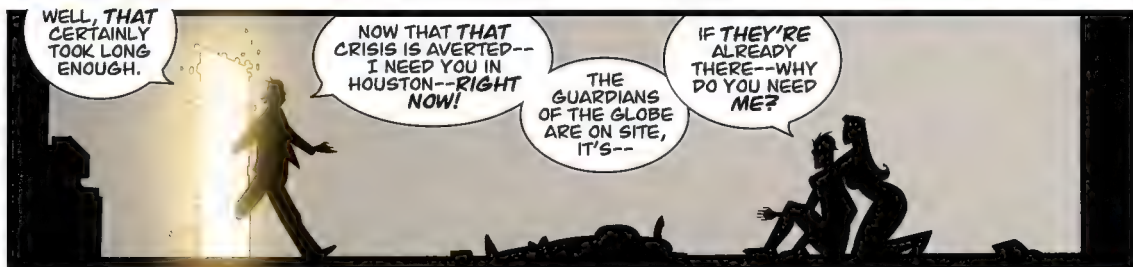
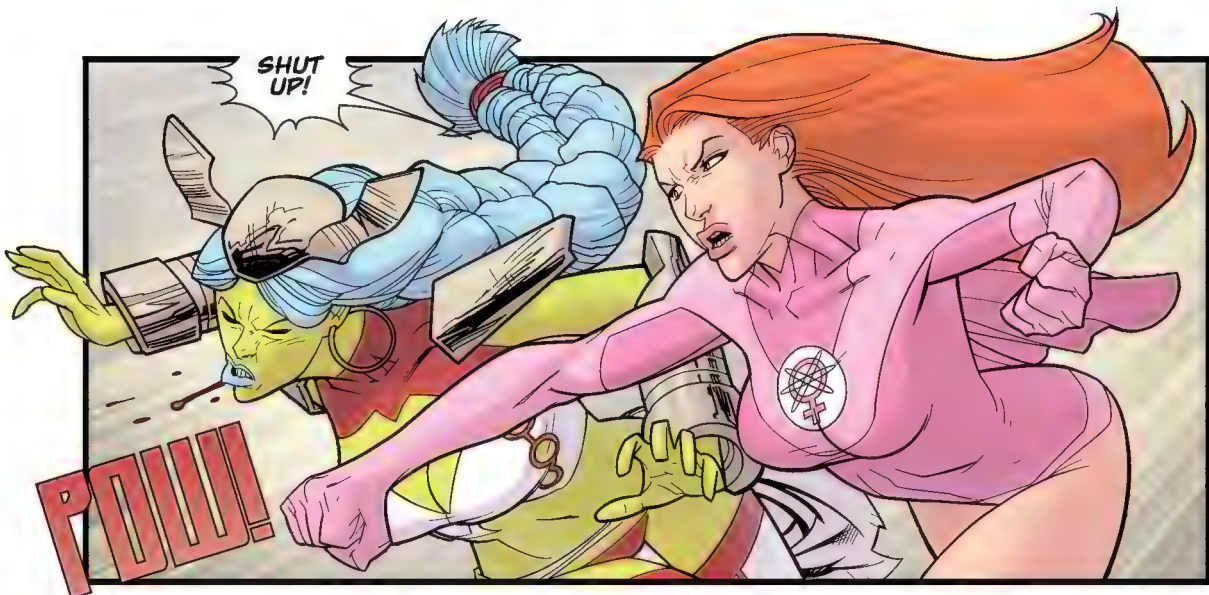












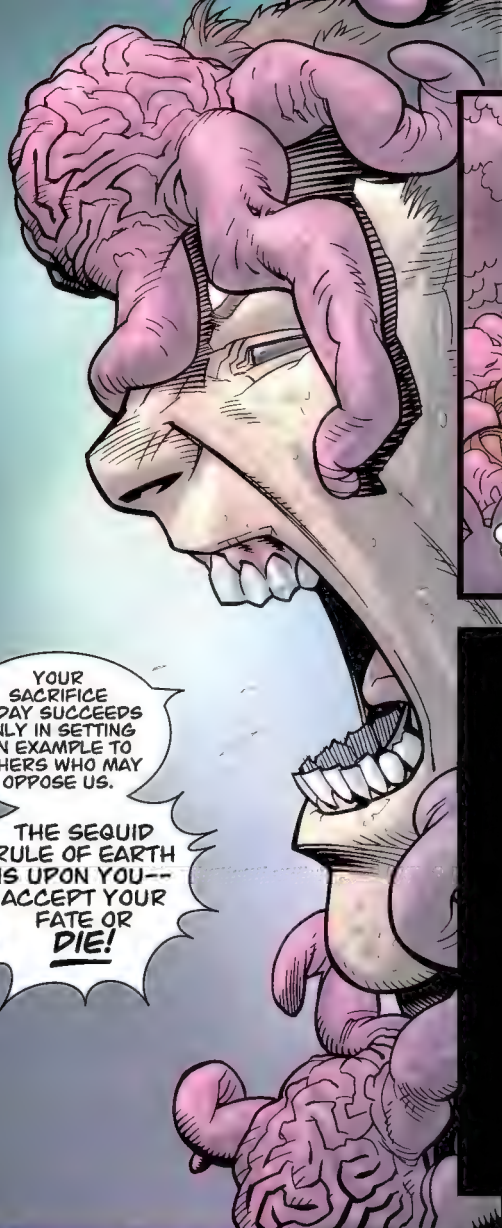


ALL
TOO
EASY!



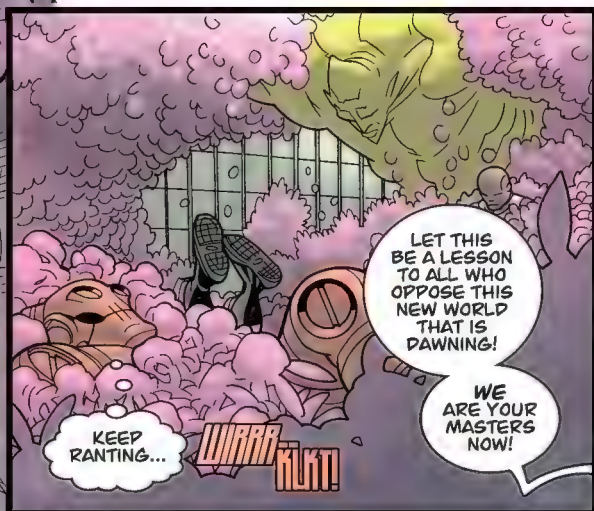
CHAPTER FIVE





YOUR SACRIFICE TODAY SUCCEEDS ONLY IN SETTING AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS WHO MAY OPPOSE US.

THE SEQUID RULE OF EARTH IS UPON YOU--ACCEPT YOUR FATE OR **DIE!**



KEEP RANTING...

WARRA KUKT!

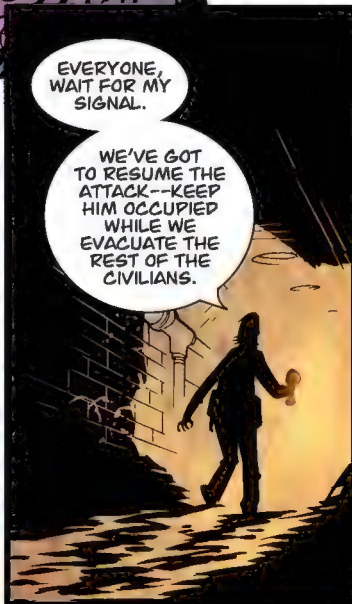
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL WHO OPPOSE THIS NEW WORLD THAT IS DAWNING!

WE ARE YOUR MASTERS NOW!



OKAY, I'M IN.

MY SUIT IS CLOSING UP--THE SEQUIDS SHOULD HAVE NO IDEA I'M NO LONGER INSIDE, I CAN CONTROL IT FROM HERE.



EVERYONE, WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL.

WE'VE GOT TO RESUME THE ATTACK--KEEP HIM OCCUPIED WHILE WE EVACUATE THE REST OF THE CIVILIANS.



BOW BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE SEQUID EMPI--

HUH?





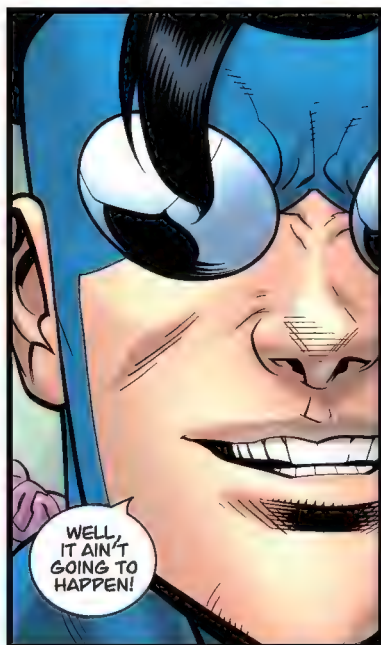
SO YOU'RE WANTING
TO TAKE OVER THIS
PLANET AND THEN
ATTACK MARS... SOME
KIND OF REVENGE
THING?

COMBINING
YOUR RACE WITH
OURS--INCREASING
YOUR NUMBER OF
HOSTS TO A LEVEL
THAT WOULD LEAD
TO YOU NEVER
BEING WITHOUT
ONE...

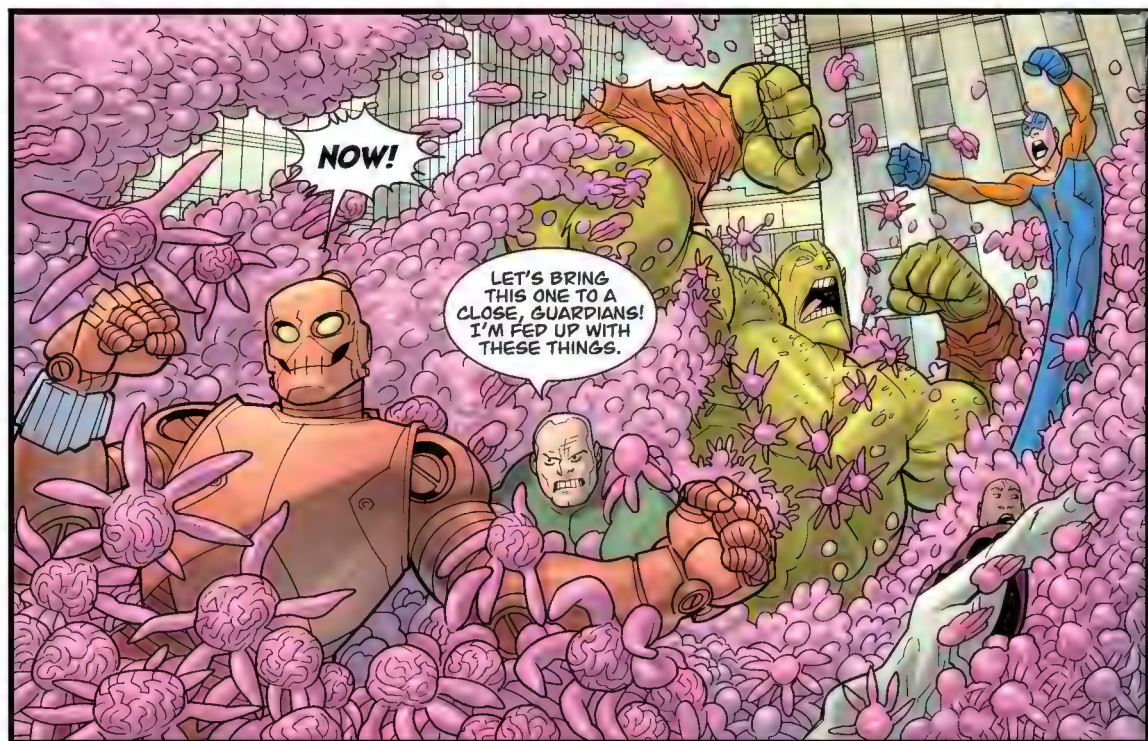
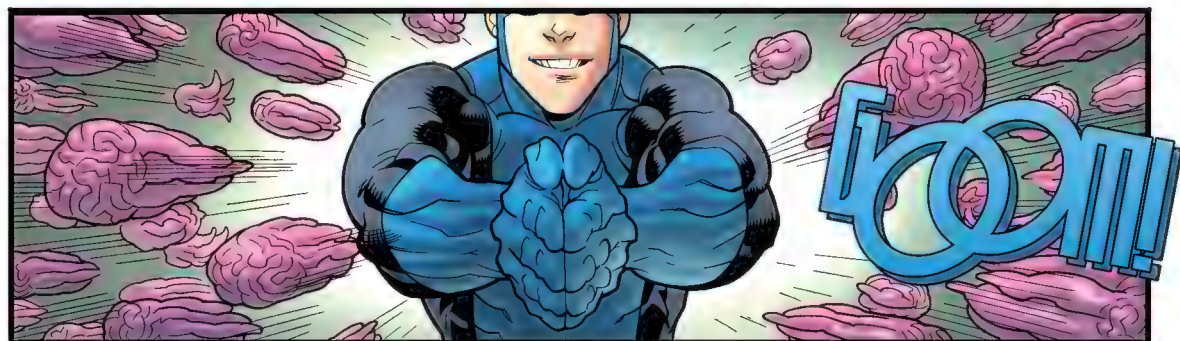
...A NEW
SYMBIOTIC RACE,
ELIMINATING YOUR
WEAKNESS ONCE
AND FOR ALL, YOUR
NEED TO LINK YOUR
MINDS THROUGH THE
CONNECTION OF
AT LEAST ONE
HOST.

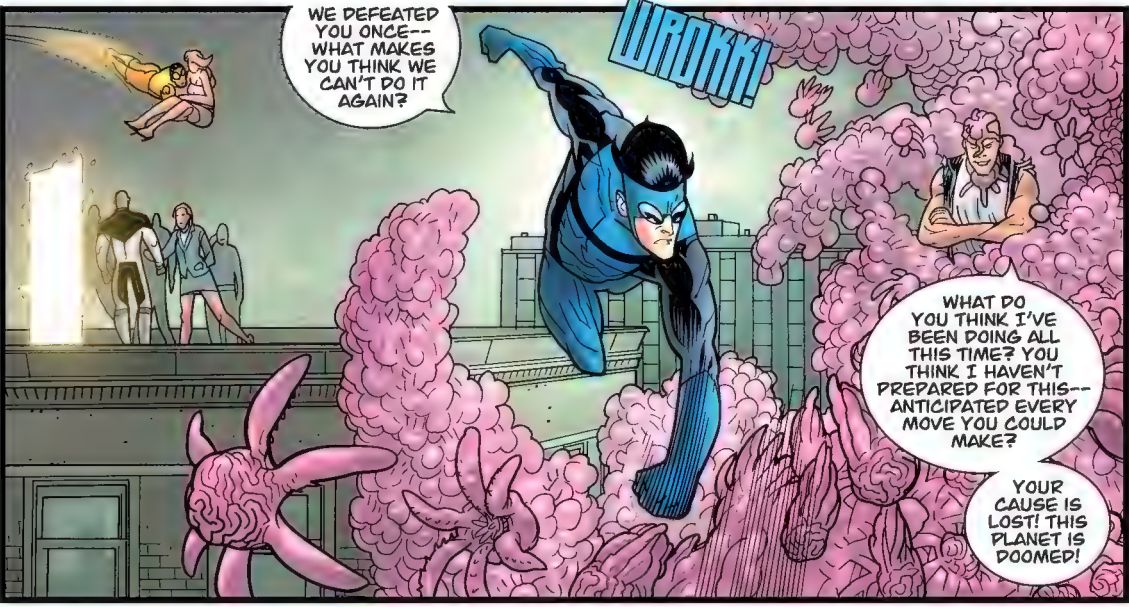
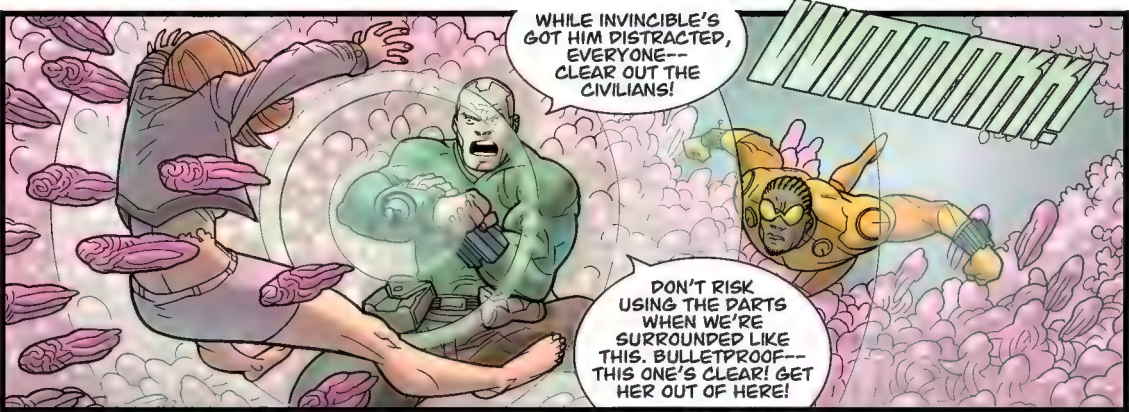
VERY
GOOD.

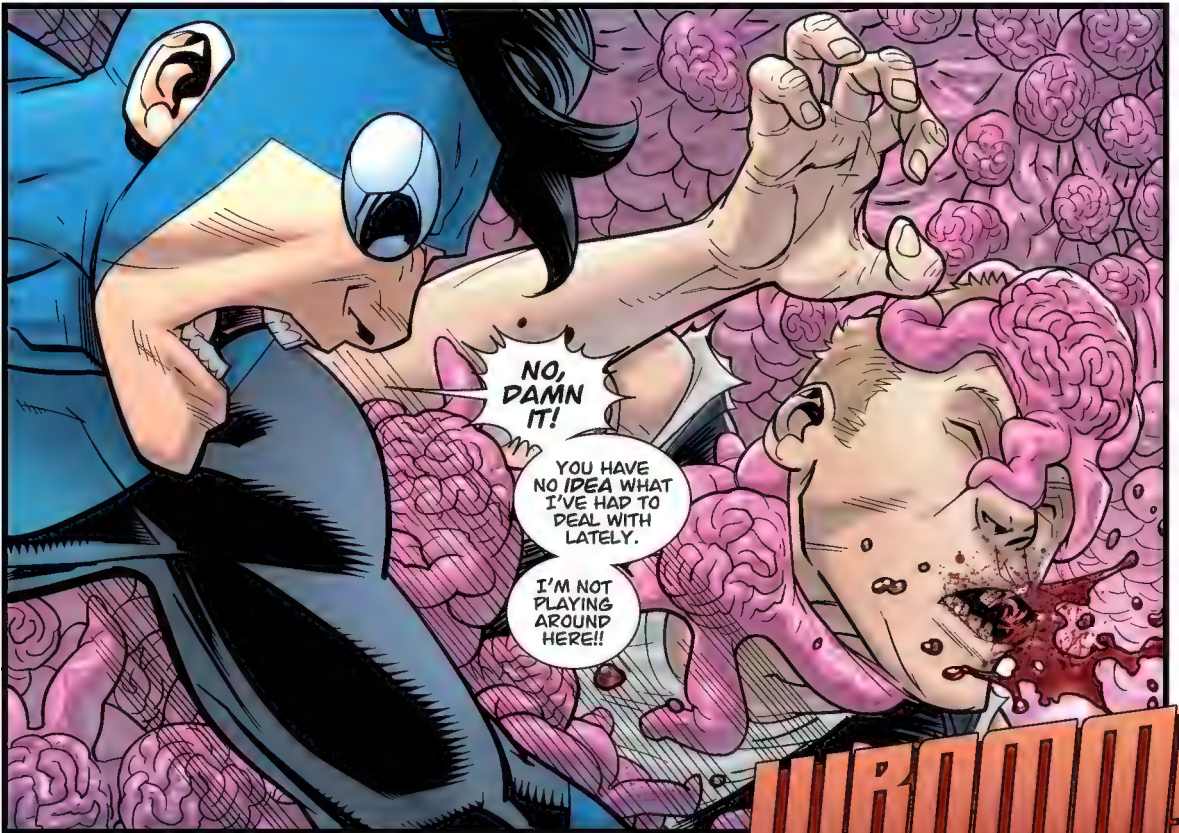
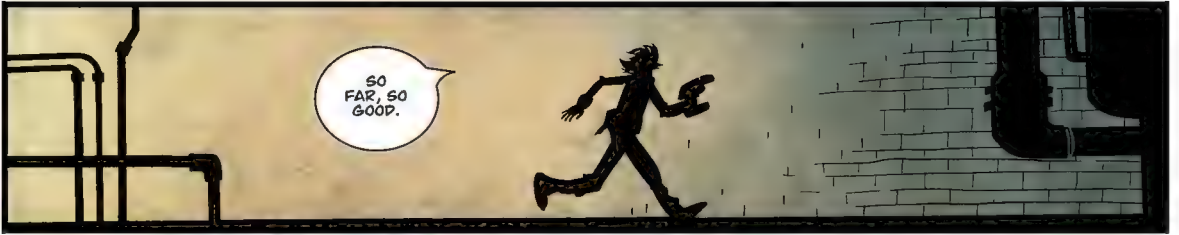
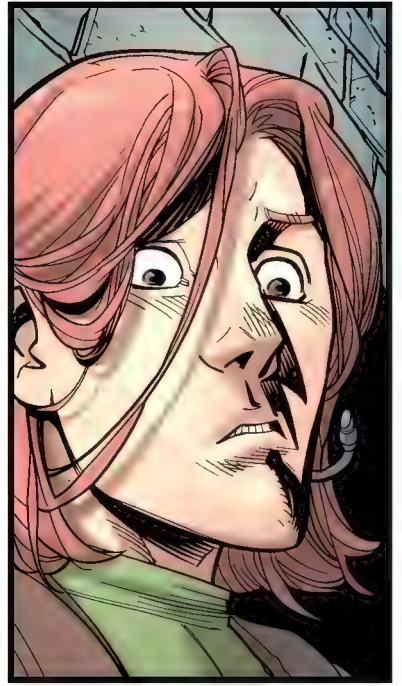
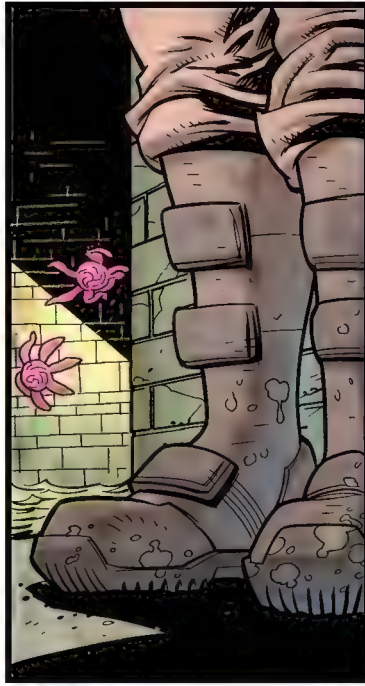
THAT
IS OUR PLAN
EXACTLY.



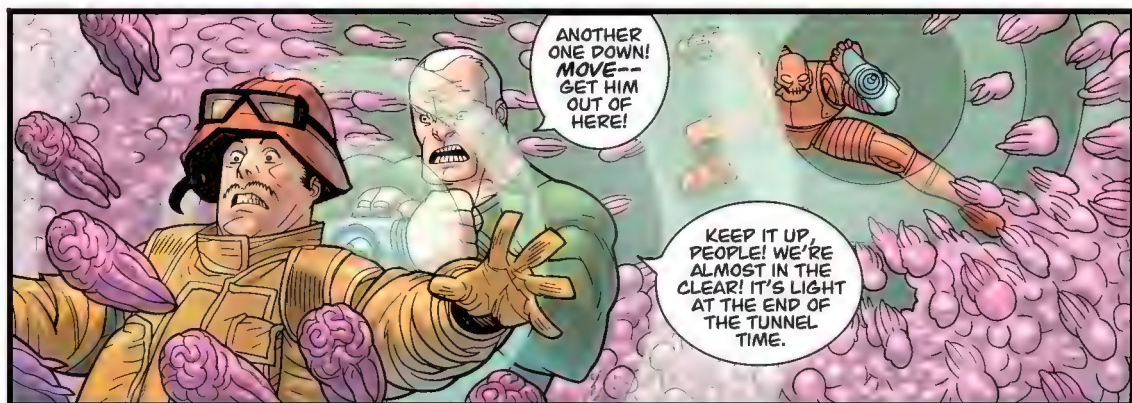
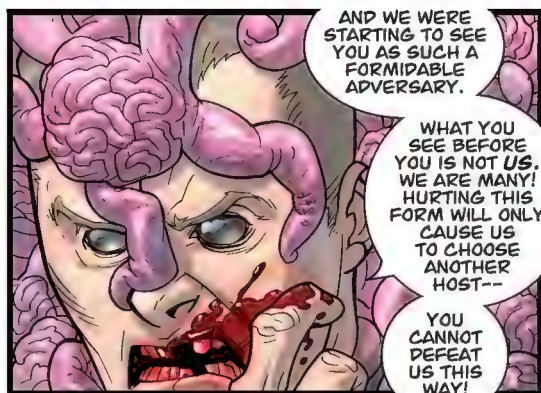
WELL,
IT AIN'T
GOING TO
HAPPEN!

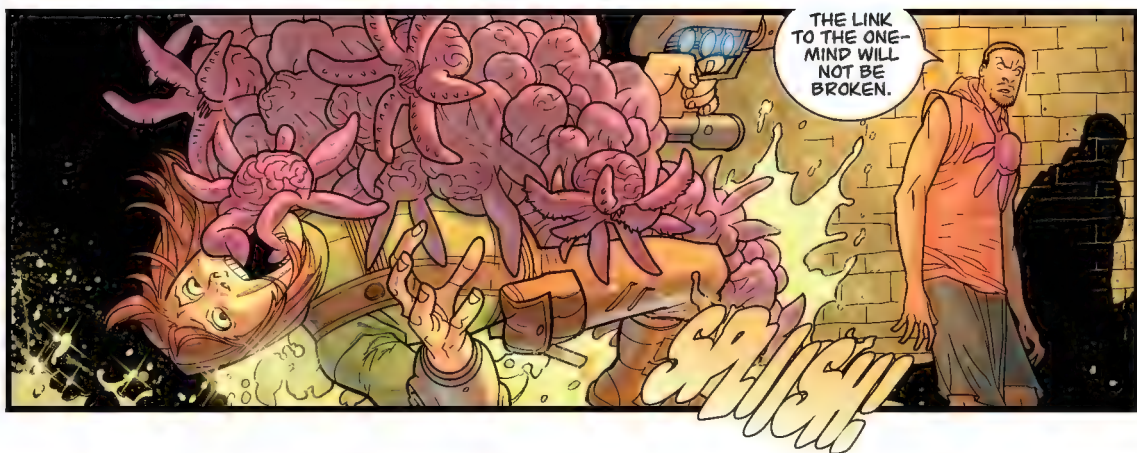


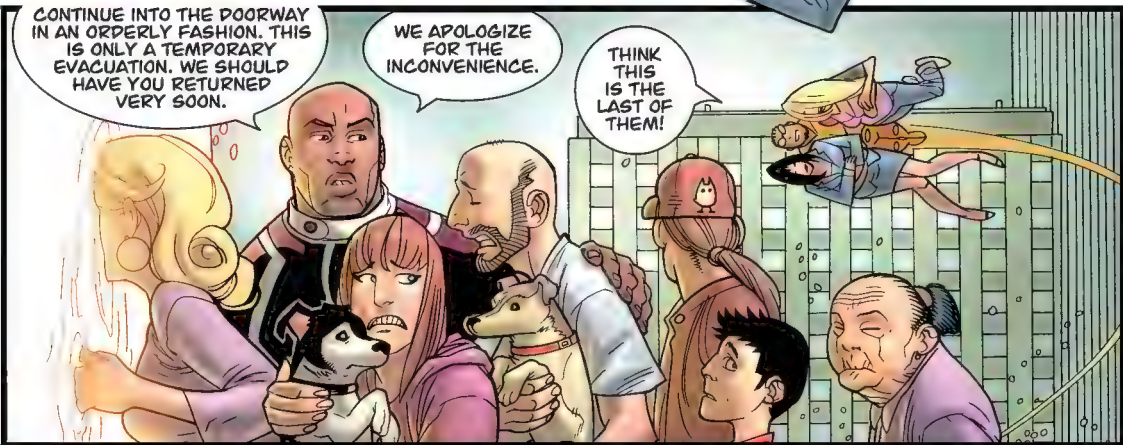
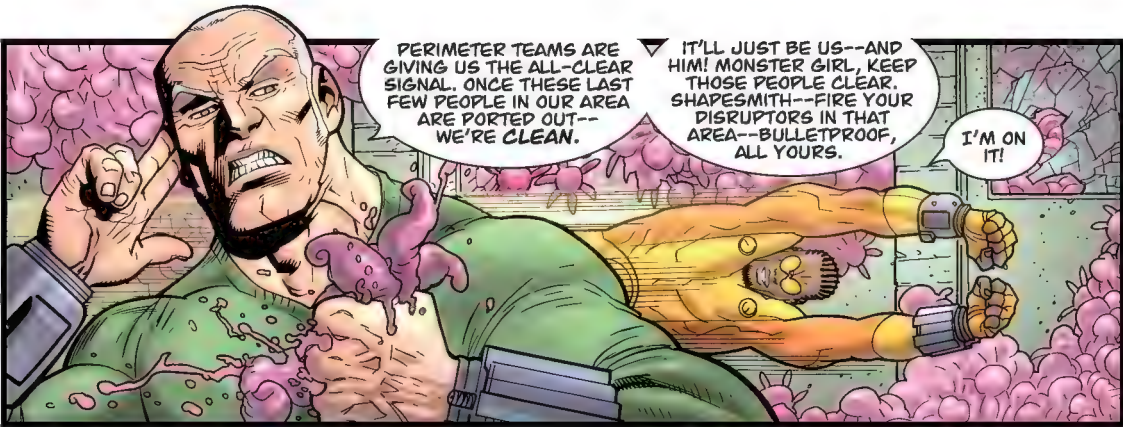


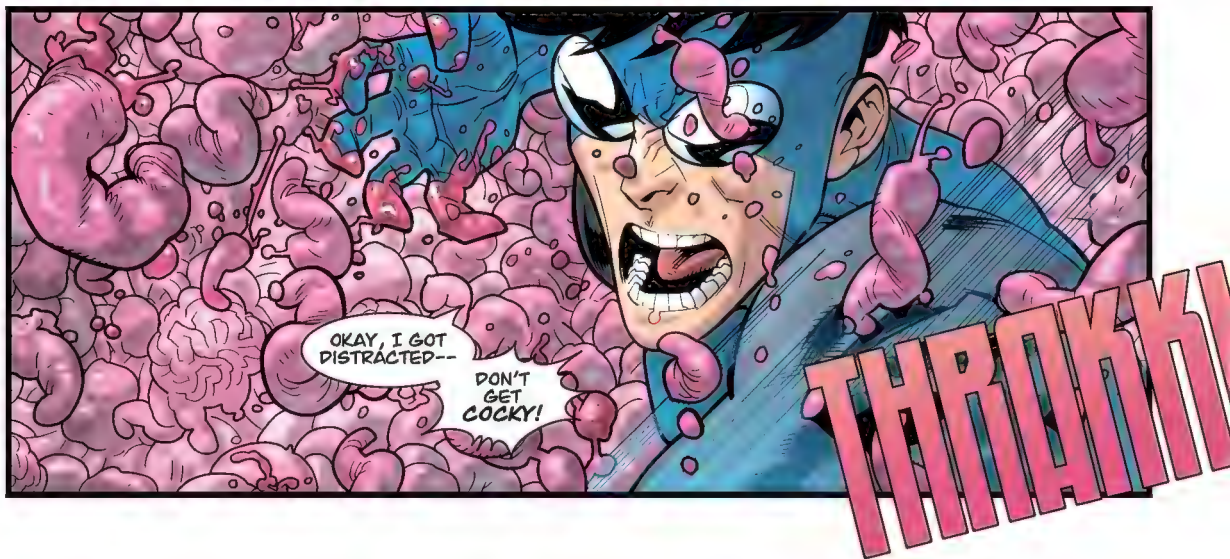
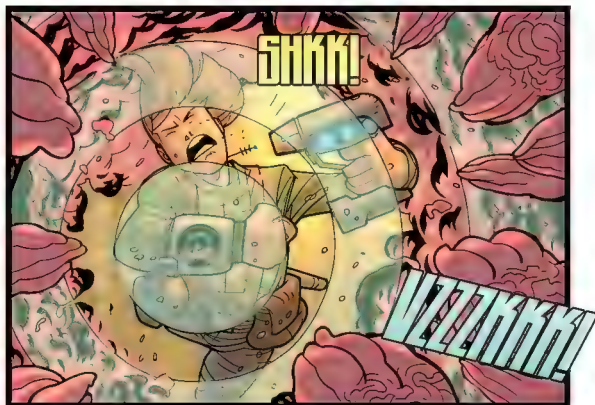
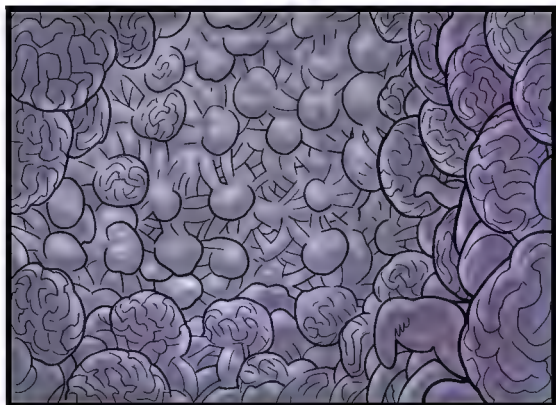


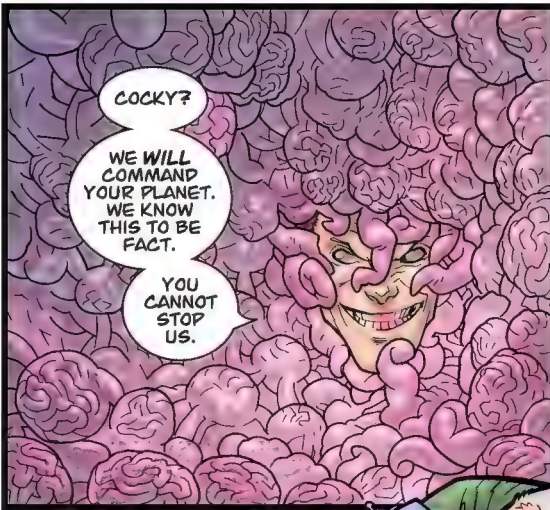
WRAMMM!!











COCKY?

WE WILL
COMMAND
YOUR PLANET.
WE KNOW
THIS TO BE
FACT.

YOU
CANNOT
STOP
US.



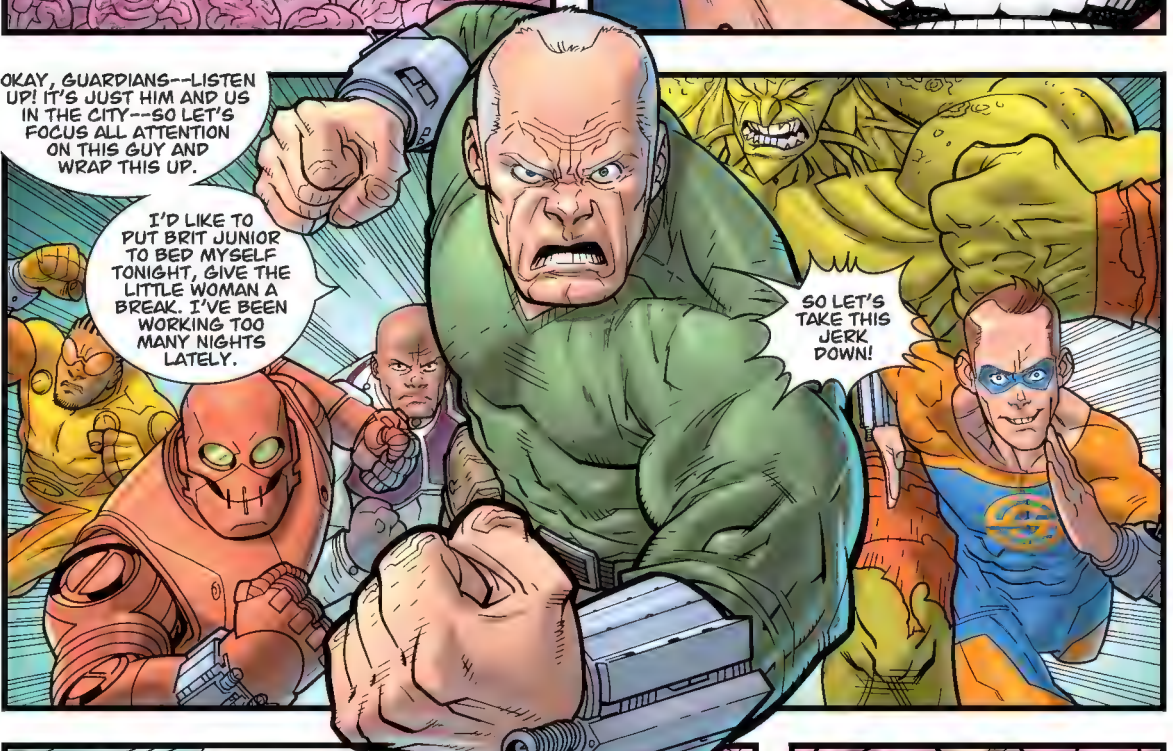
REALLY?
HAH!

I DON'T
THINK YOU'VE
BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION.

OKAY, GUARDIANS--LISTEN
UP! IT'S JUST HIM AND US
IN THE CITY--SO LET'S
FOCUS ALL ATTENTION
ON THIS GUY AND
WRAP THIS UP.

I'D LIKE TO
PUT BRIT JUNIOR
TO BED MYSELF
TONIGHT, GIVE THE
LITTLE WOMAN A
BREAK. I'VE BEEN
WORKING TOO
MANY NIGHTS
LATELY.

SO LET'S
TAKE THIS
JERK
DOWN!



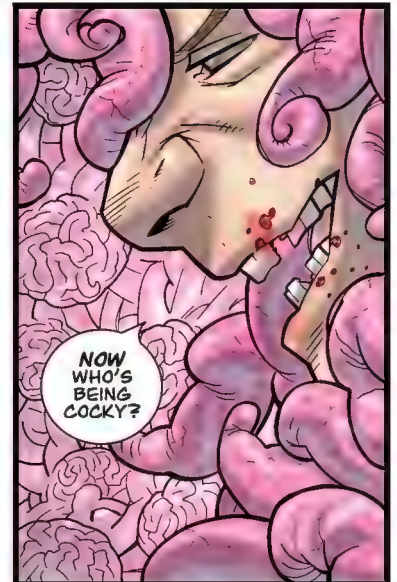
HE HAD A HOST
HIDDEN IN THE
SEWERS, BUT I
TOOK CARE OF
HIM--I'M BACK
AT THE HOLDING
AREA NOW
WITH THE
REST OF THE
REFUGEES.

LET'S
BRING
THESE
PEOPLE
HOME.

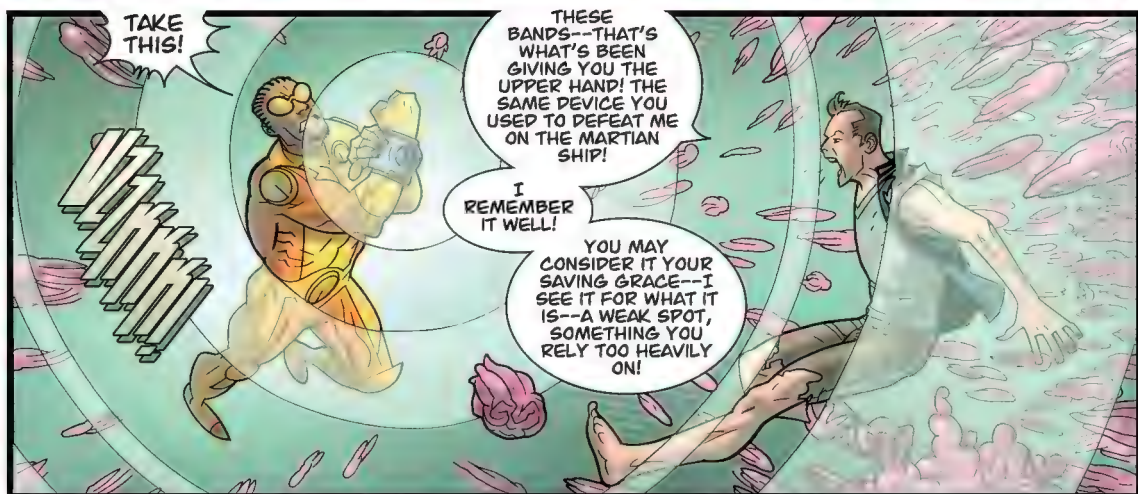
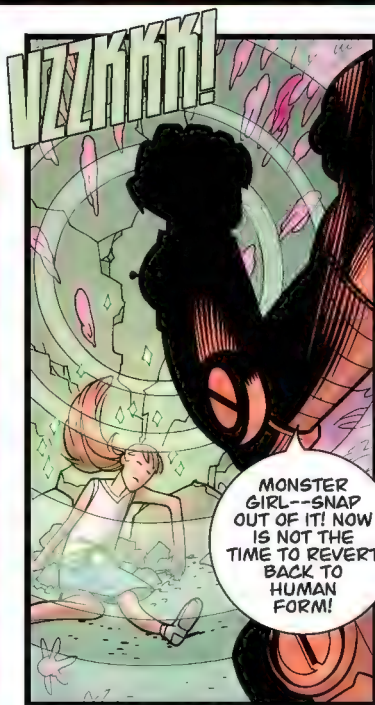
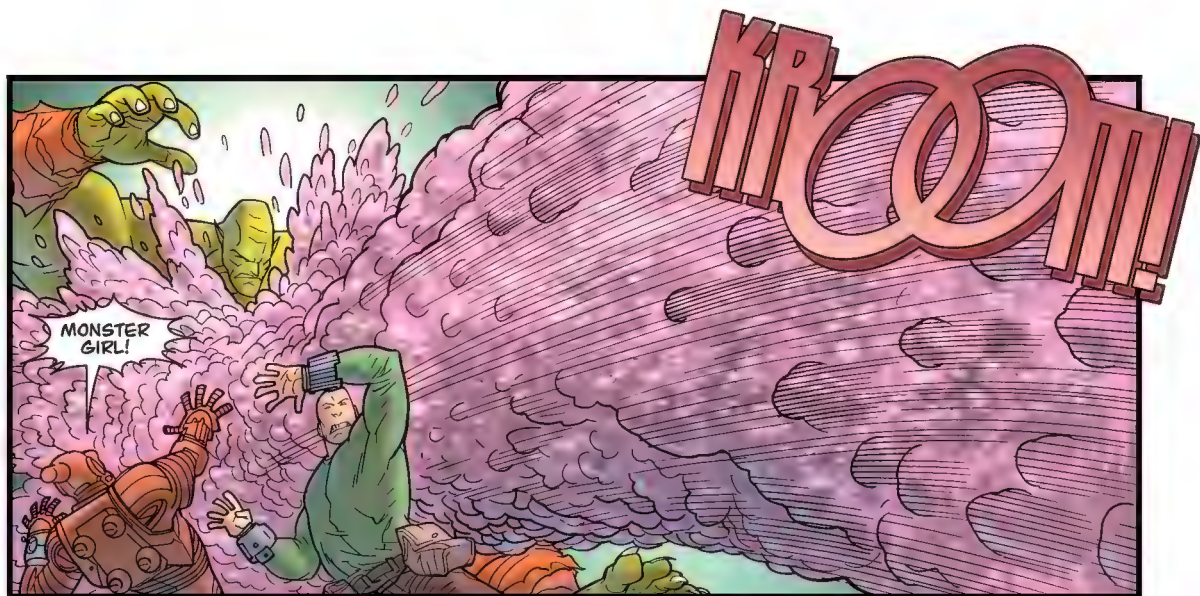


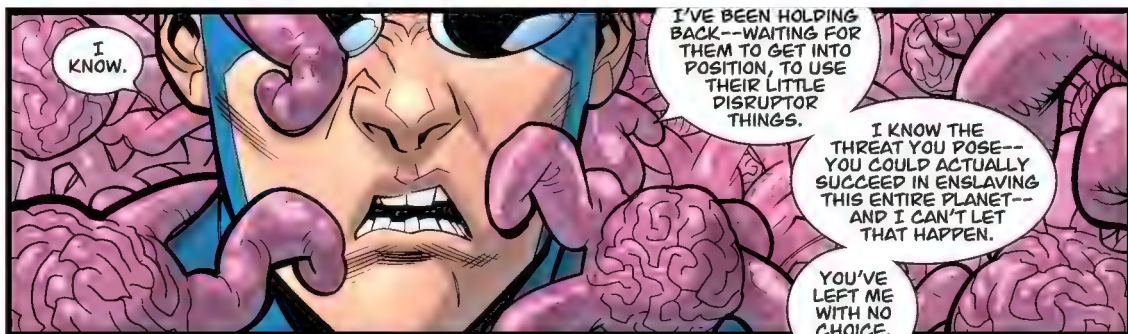
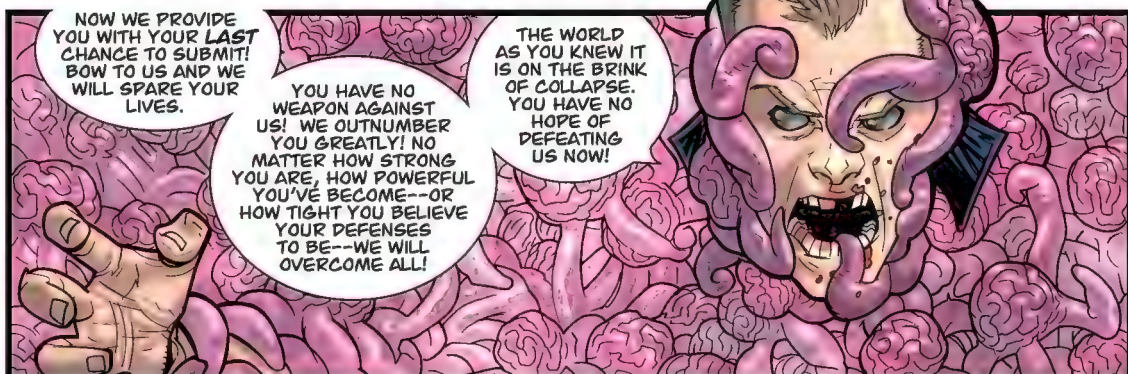
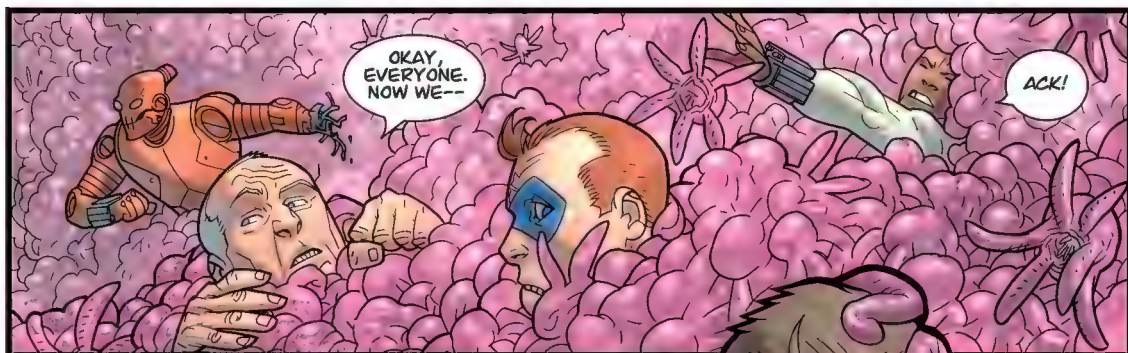
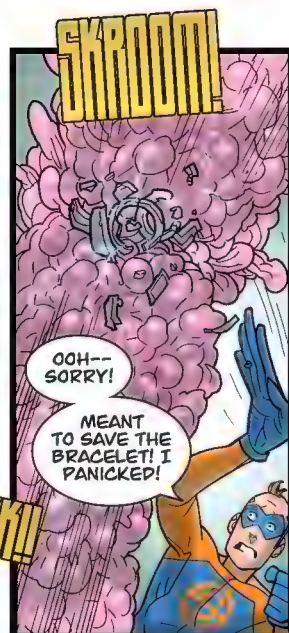
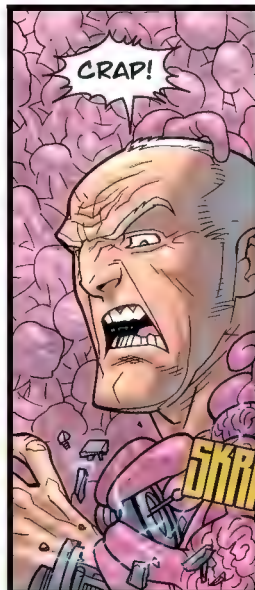
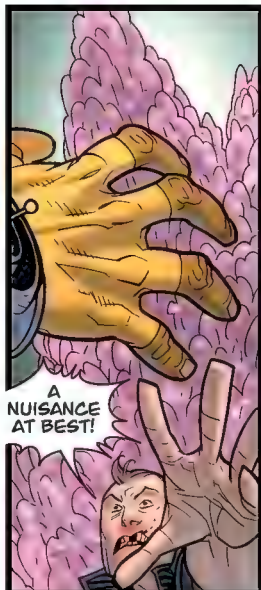
HEAR THAT,
SEQUID MAN--
OR WHATEVER
YOU'RE
CALLING
YOURSELF...

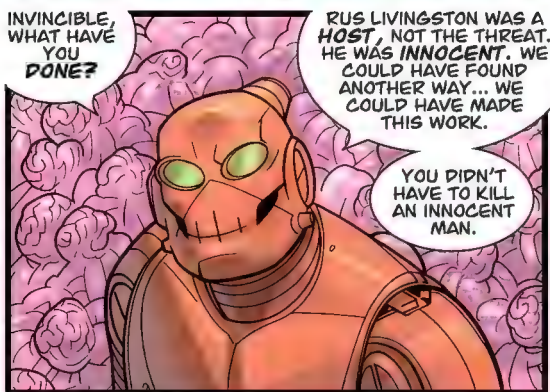
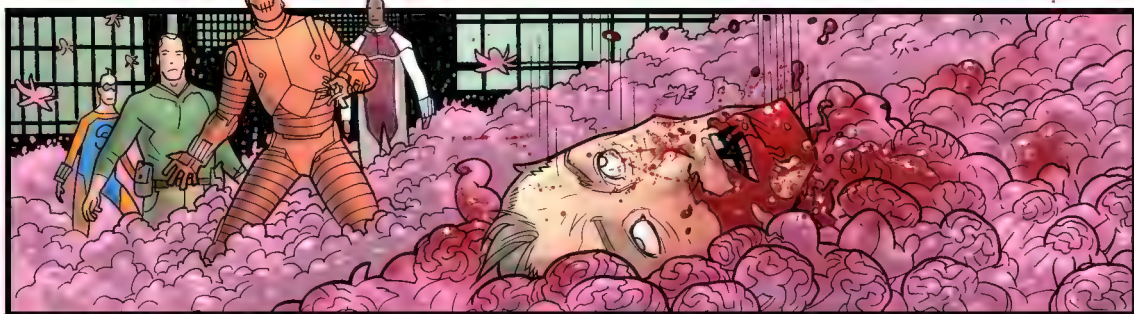
...IT'S
ONLY A
MATTER
OF TIME.

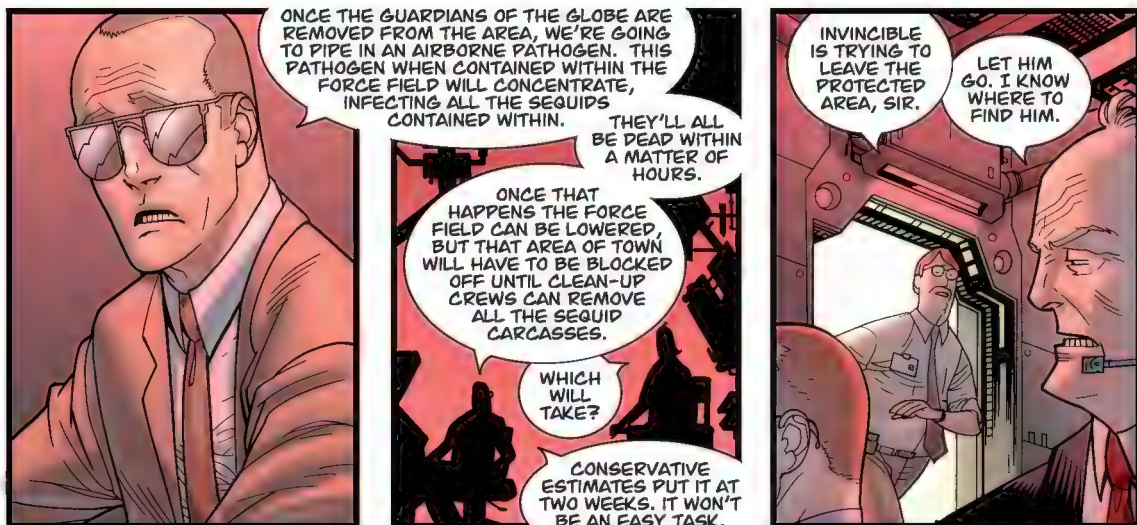
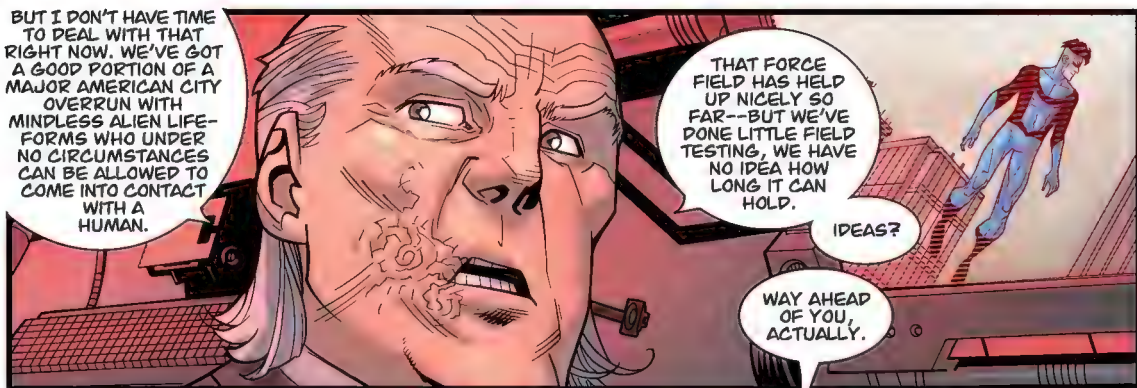
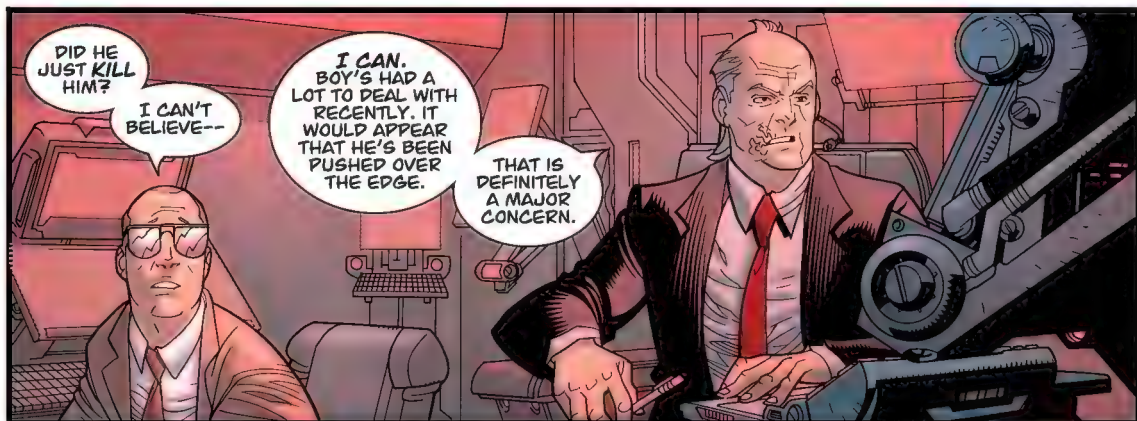
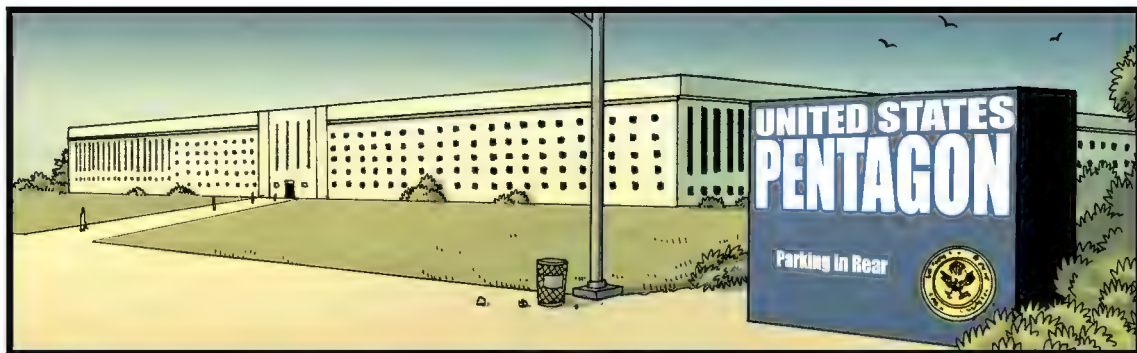


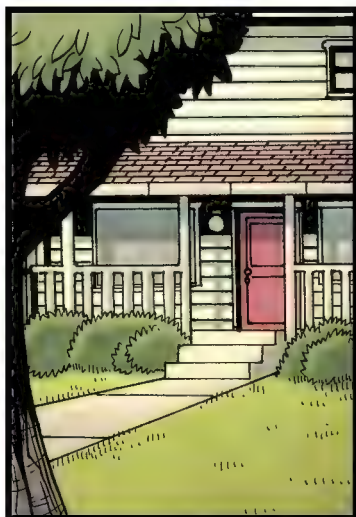
NOW
WHO'S
BEING
COCKY?









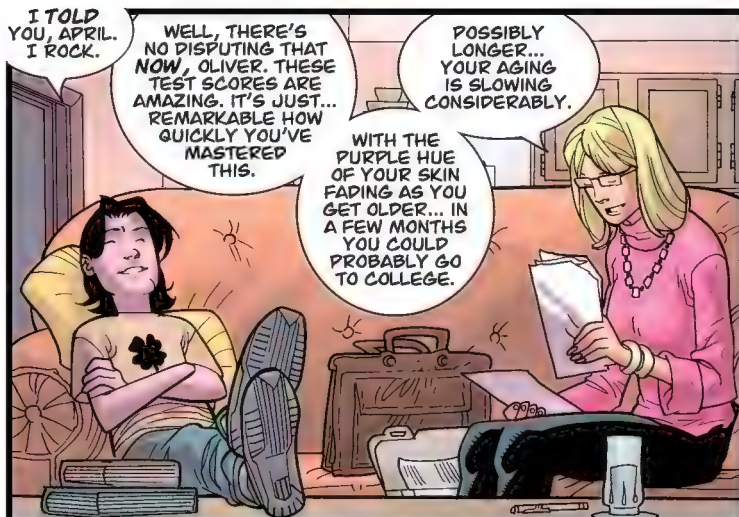


I TOLD YOU, APRIL... I ROCK.

WELL, THERE'S NO DISPUTING THAT NOW, OLIVER. THESE TEST SCORES ARE AMAZING. IT'S JUST... REMARKABLE HOW QUICKLY YOU'VE MASTERED THIS.

POSSIBLY LONGER... YOUR AGING IS SLOWING CONSIDERABLY.

WITH THE PURPLE HUE OF YOUR SKIN FADING AS YOU GET OLDER... IN A FEW MONTHS YOU COULD PROBABLY GO TO COLLEGE.



YOU THINK I'LL BE AN ADULT SOON? I'VE DONE SOME MATH, TRYING TO EXTRAPOLATE THE RATE AT WHICH I'LL HIT CERTAIN AGES, BUT WITH MY PROGRESSION SLOWING AT SUCH AN ABRUPT RATE...

MY DATA IS KIND OF USELESS.



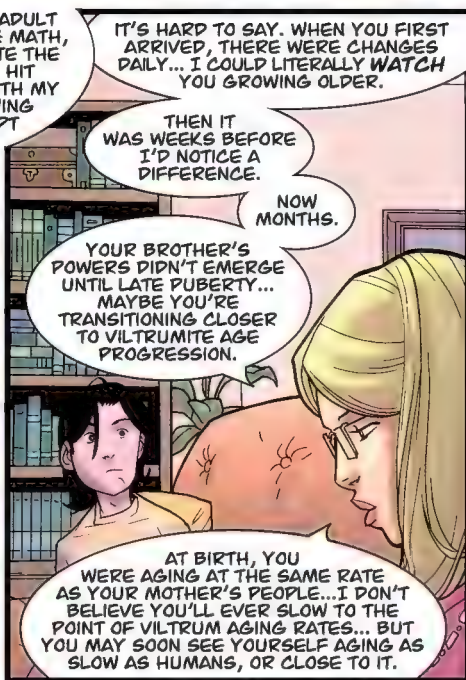
IT'S HARD TO SAY. WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED, THERE WERE CHANGES DAILY... I COULD LITERALLY WATCH YOU GROWING OLDER.

THEN IT WAS WEEKS BEFORE I'D NOTICE A DIFFERENCE.

NOW MONTHS.

YOUR BROTHER'S POWERS DIDN'T EMERGE UNTIL LATE PUBERTY... MAYBE YOU'RE TRANSITIONING CLOSER TO VILTRUMITE AGE PROGRESSION.

AT BIRTH, YOU WERE AGING AT THE SAME RATE AS YOUR MOTHER'S PEOPLE... I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'LL EVER SLOW TO THE POINT OF VILTRUMITE AGING RATES... BUT YOU MAY SOON SEE YOURSELF AGING AS SLOW AS HUMANS, OR CLOSE TO IT.



YOU'VE GONE FROM AGING A MONTH EVERY THREE DAYS, TO... SOMETHING CONSIDERABLY LOWER.

YOU APPEAR TO BE FOURTEEN, MAYBE FIFTEEN NOW. IT COULD BE A YEAR OR EVEN TWO BEFORE YOU REACH ADULTHOOD.

CRUD.



WELL, I GUESS YOU ACTUALLY DIDN'T NEED MY HELP, THEN?

I'LL BE IN MY ROOM.

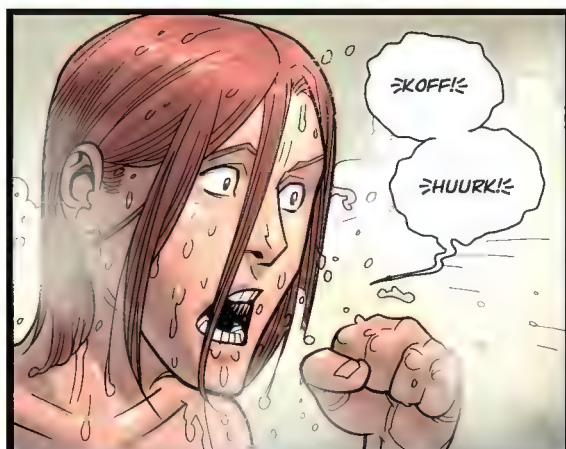
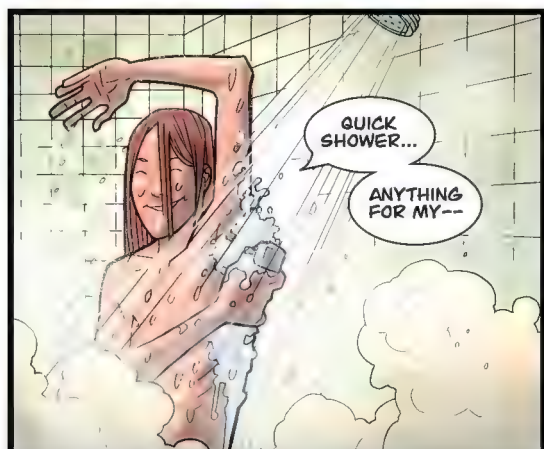
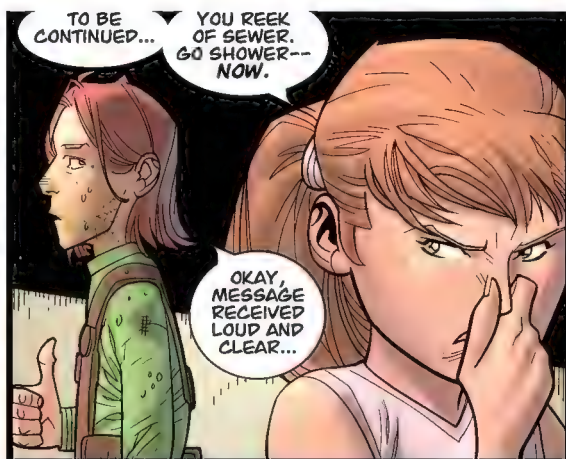
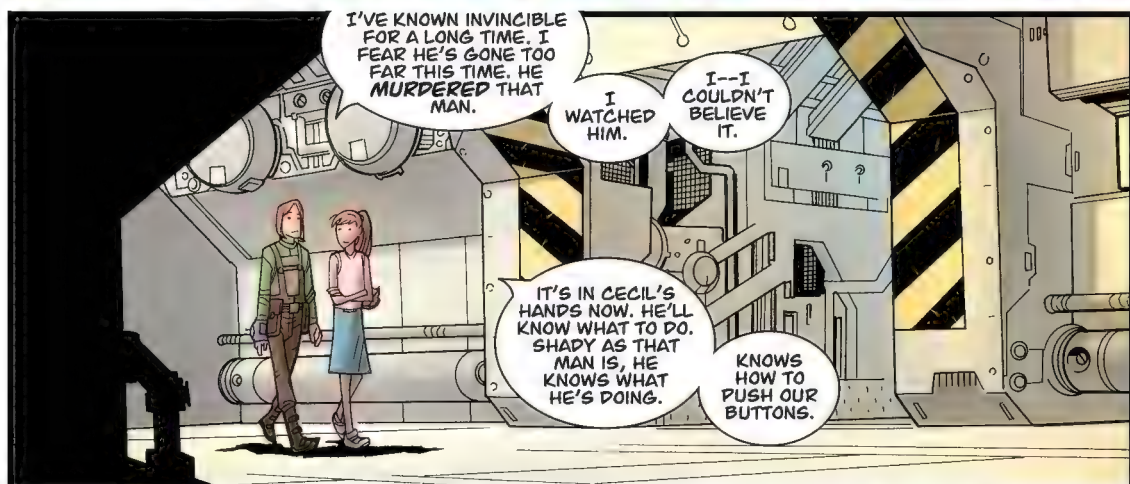
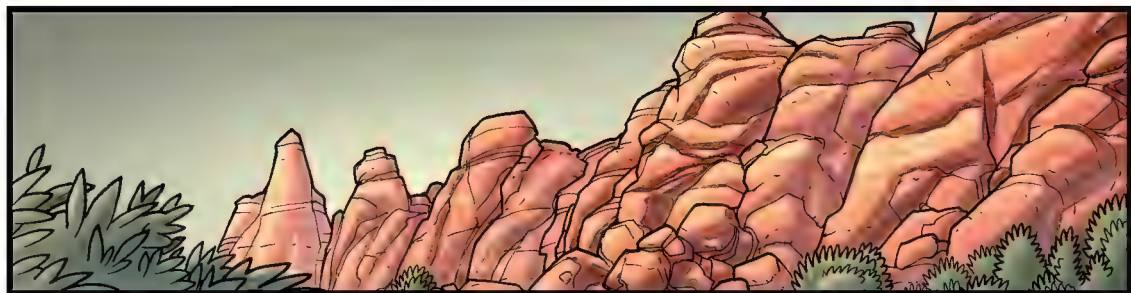


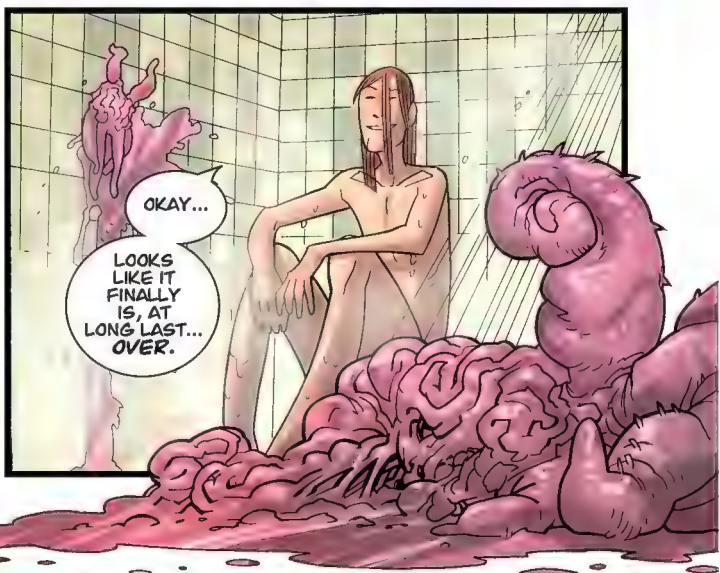
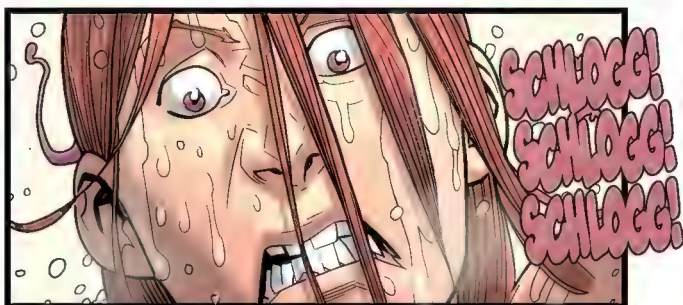
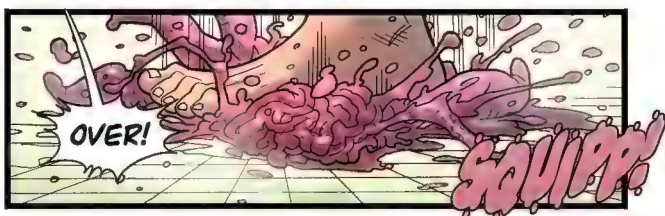
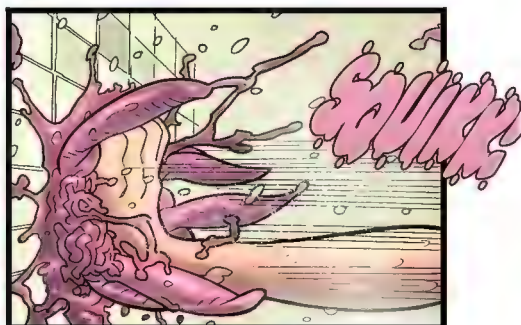
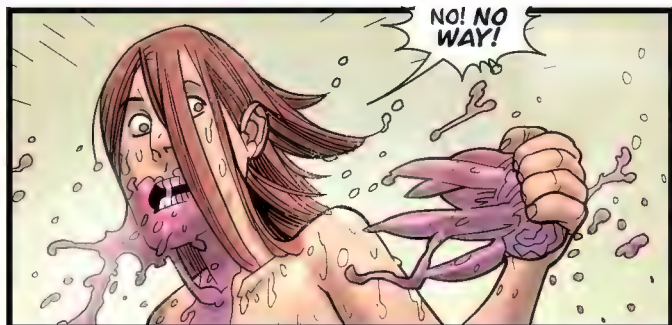
WHAT WAS THAT? YOU GUYS AREN'T FIGHTING AGAIN, ARE YOU?

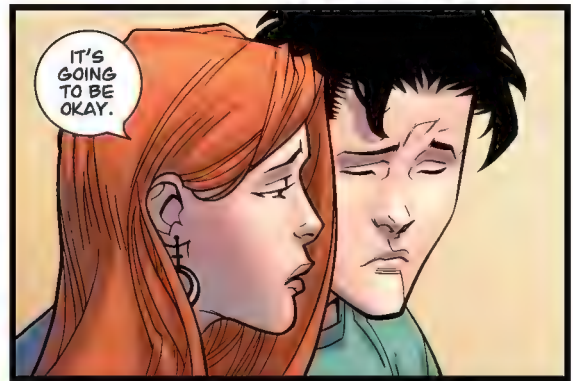
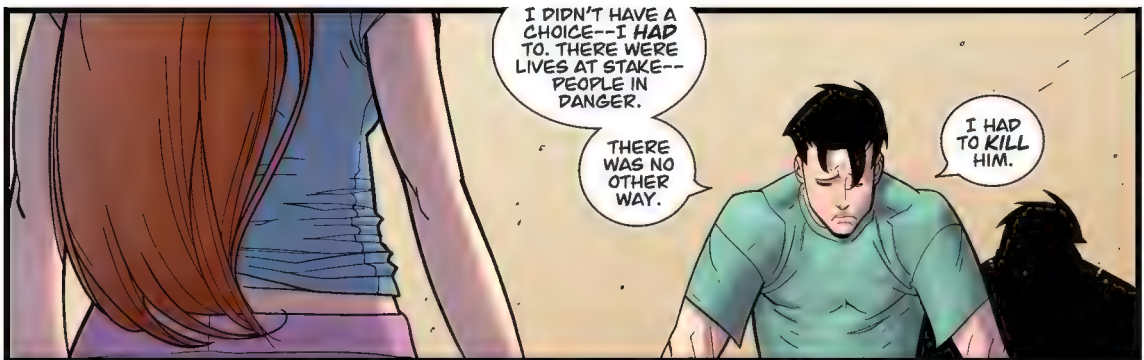
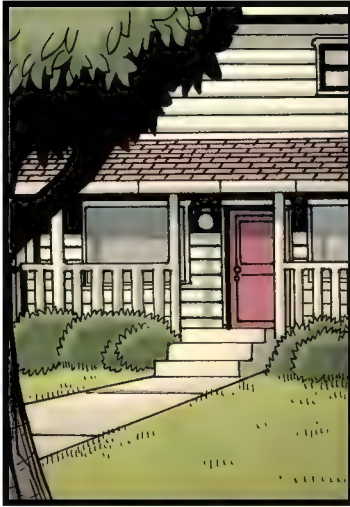
NO. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S WRONG... IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING WITH HIM.

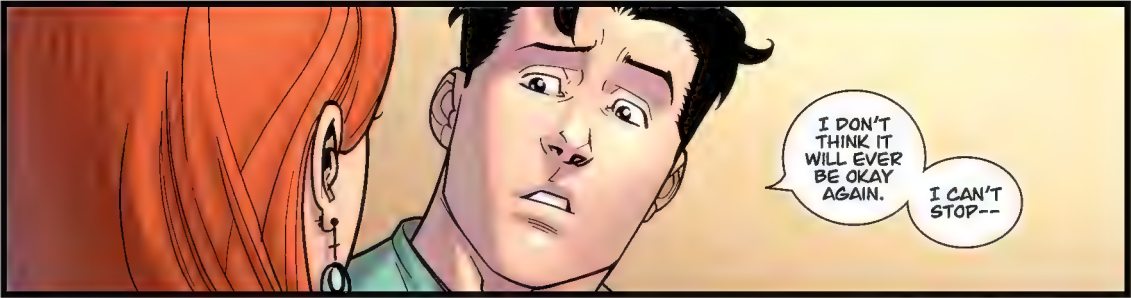
DRAMA, DRAMA, DRAMA.









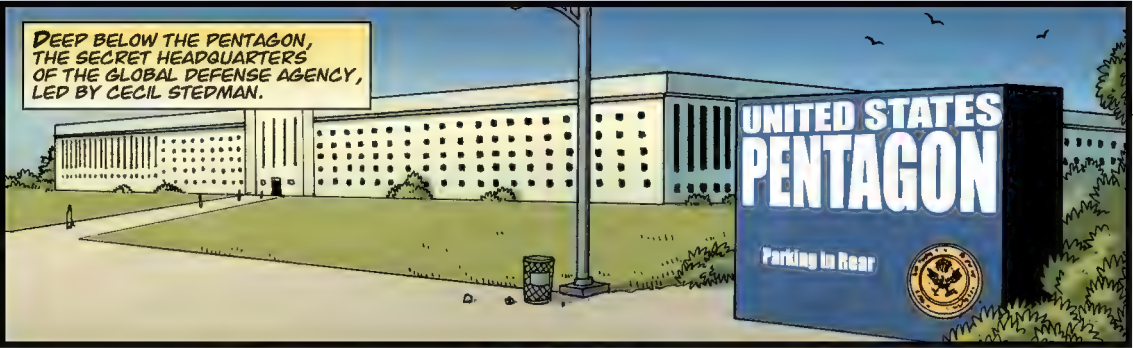




CHAPTER SIX



FINCH 2009



DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEPMAN.



OKAY, CECIL. WE'RE HERE... AND I HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHAT YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT. START YOUR LECTURE.

MY, WHAT A DIFFERENCE A FEW MONTHS MAKE. REMEMBER BEFORE? WE WERE WORKING TOGETHER SO WELL AND THEN YOU FOUND OUT THAT I WAS REFORMING CRIMINALS--TAKING "MURDERING SCUM" AND TURNING THEM TO OUR SIDE, USING THEM FOR GOOD CAUSES.

YOU JUST COULDN'T HANDLE IT--THE THOUGHT OF ME GIVING KILLERS A SECOND CHANCE.

NOW LOOK AT YOU. YOUR BROTHER KILLED THE MAULER TWINS AND YOU SIMPLY LOOK THE OTHER WAY. YOU MURDERED CONQUEST. THEN THERE'S THE CASE OF COMPLETELY INNOCENT FORMER ASTRONAUT RUS LIVINGSTON...

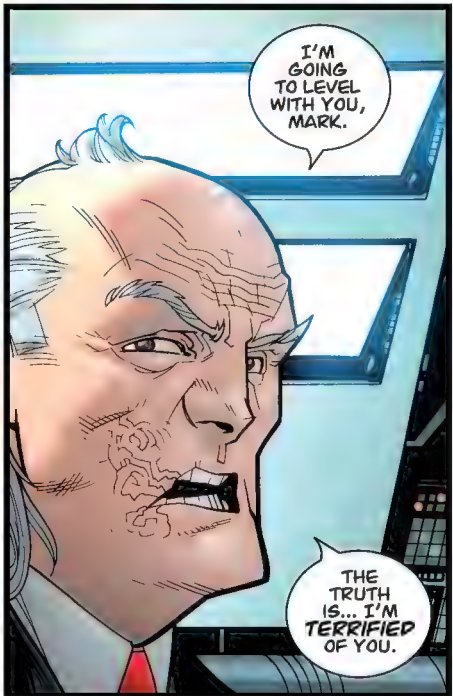
...ALSO MURDERED.



OLIVER ISN'T FROM THIS PLANET, HIS PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF LIFE AND DEATH. WHAT HE DID TO THE MAULER TWINS... IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.

CONQUEST WAS TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD. I'D DO IT AGAIN WITHOUT HESITATION.

AND RUS... THE SEQUIDS WERE GOING TO DEFEAT US. I HAD NO CHOICE.



I'M GOING TO LEVEL WITH YOU, MARK.

THE TRUTH IS... I'M TERRIFIED OF YOU.

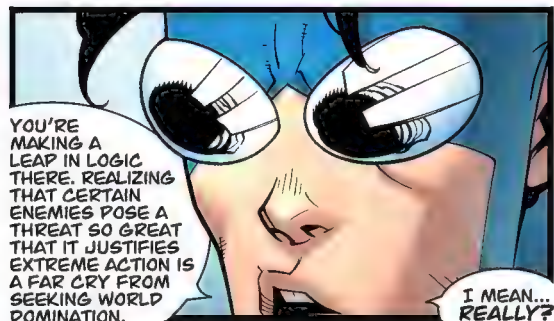


THE DISAGREEMENT THAT ENDED OUR RELATIONSHIP STEMMED FROM YOUR UNYIELDING SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG. ONCE YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND, THAT'S IT--YOU'LL FIGHT YOUR OWN BEST FRIEND IF YOU THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU DISAGREED WITH YOUR OWN FATHER WHEN HE REVEALED HIS PLANS TO CONQUER THIS PLANET. YOU IMMEDIATELY CHOSE TO FIGHT HIM--PUTTING AT RISK A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP.

I ADMIRE YOUR ABILITY TO STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN--NO MATTER THE COST. BUT NOW YOU'RE DISPLAYING AN ABILITY TO **CHANGE** WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN, TO ADJUST YOUR STANCE AT WILL.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DECIDE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FIT TO RULE THIS PLANET?



YOU'RE MAKING A LEAP IN LOGIC THERE. REALIZING THAT CERTAIN ENEMIES POSE A THREAT SO GREAT THAT IT JUSTIFIES EXTREME ACTION IS A FAR CRY FROM SEEKING WORLD DOMINATION.

I MEAN... REALLY?



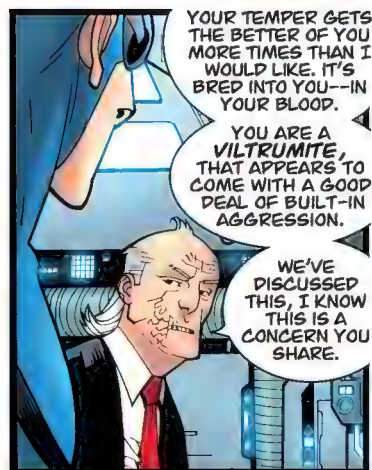
HOLD THAT THOUGHT. SINCLAIR, ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE US?



GIVE ME ANOTHER THIRTY SECONDS AND WE'LL BE CLEAR.

WHY DOES HE WANT ME HERE FOR THIS?

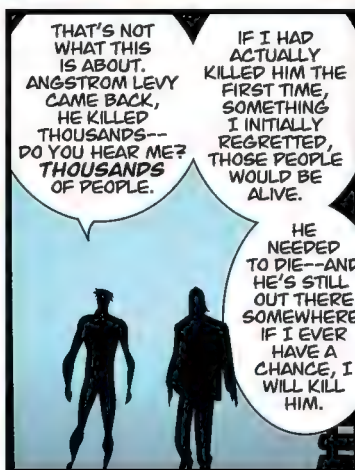
I HAVE NO IDEA. HELP ME GET THESE CANISTERS CLOSED. HE WANTS THEM HIDDEN FOR SOME REASON.



YOUR TEMPER GETS THE BETTER OF YOU MORE TIMES THAN I WOULD LIKE. IT'S BRED INTO YOU--IN YOUR BLOOD.

YOU ARE A **VILTRUMITE**, THAT APPEARS TO COME WITH A GOOD DEAL OF BUILT-IN AGGRESSION.

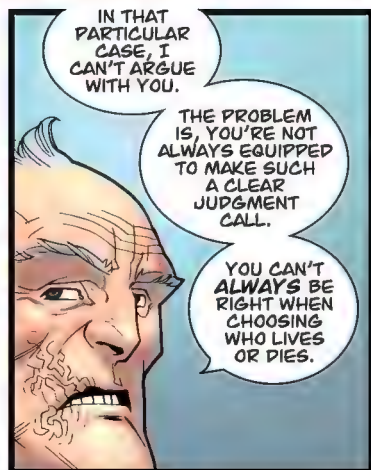
WE'VE DISCUSSED THIS, I KNOW THIS IS A CONCERN YOU SHARE.



THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT. **ANGSTROM LEVY** CAME BACK, HE KILLED THOUSANDS--DO YOU HEAR ME? THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

IF I HAD ACTUALLY KILLED HIM THE FIRST TIME, SOMETHING I INITIALLY REGRETTED, THOSE PEOPLE WOULD BE ALIVE.

HE NEEDED TO DIE--AND HE'S STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. IF I EVER HAVE A CHANCE, I WILL KILL HIM.



IN THAT PARTICULAR CASE, I CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOU.

THE PROBLEM IS, YOU'RE NOT ALWAYS EQUIPPED TO MAKE SUCH A CLEAR JUDGMENT CALL.

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BE RIGHT WHEN CHOOSING WHO LIVES OR DIES.



HERE'S ONE OF THE TIMES YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN **WRONG**.

HELLO, INVINCIBLE.

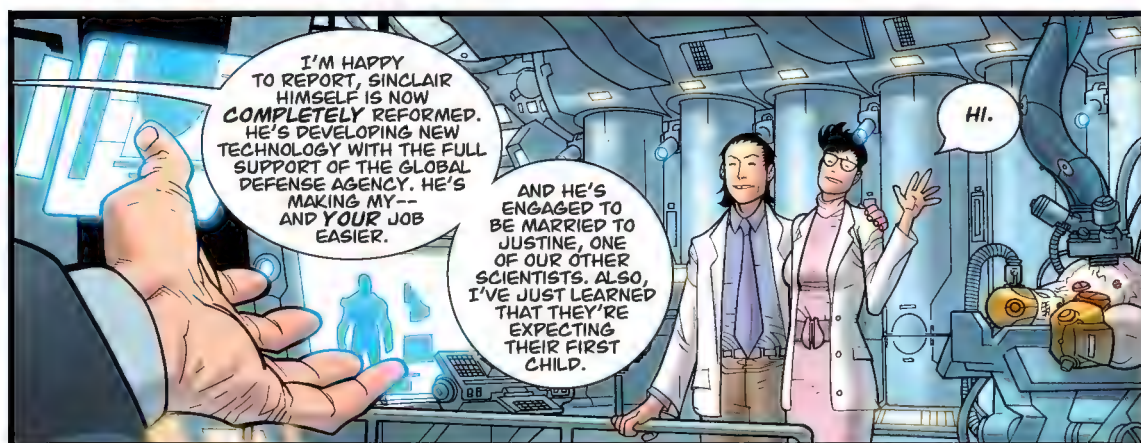
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU BRINGING ME **HERE**? WHAT PURPOSE WILL THIS SERVE, CECIL?

THIS IS A **LEARNING** EXPERIENCE. D.A. SINCLAIR, HE WAS DEVELOPING HIS REANIMEN TECHNOLOGY WHILE ATTENDING UPSTATE UNIVERSITY. HE EXPERIMENTED ON THE HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE AREA--EVEN A FEW STUDENTS.

NOW THAT THE TECHNOLOGY IS IN USE, THE REANIMEN TROOPS ARE SAVING **COUNTLESS** LIVES. BUILT ON CAPAVERS NOW, THEY EACH TAKE THE PLACE OF **TWENTY** FOOT SOLDIERS.

HORRIFIC THINGS WERE DONE TO THOSE MEN, WE ALL AGREE ON THAT, BUT NO ONE LISTENED TO SINCLAIR, NO ONE BELIEVED HIS THEORIES AT FIRST. HE HAD TO PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE TO PROVE HIMSELF.

THEY'RE MAKING THIS WORLD A **BETTER** PLACE.



I'M HAPPY TO REPORT, SINCLAIR HIMSELF IS NOW **COMPLETELY** REFORMED. HE'S DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGY WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY. HE'S MAKING MY-- AND YOUR JOB EASIER.

AND HE'S ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED TO JUSTINE, ONE OF OUR OTHER SCIENTISTS. ALSO, I'VE JUST LEARNED THAT THEY'RE EXPECTING THEIR FIRST CHILD.

HI.

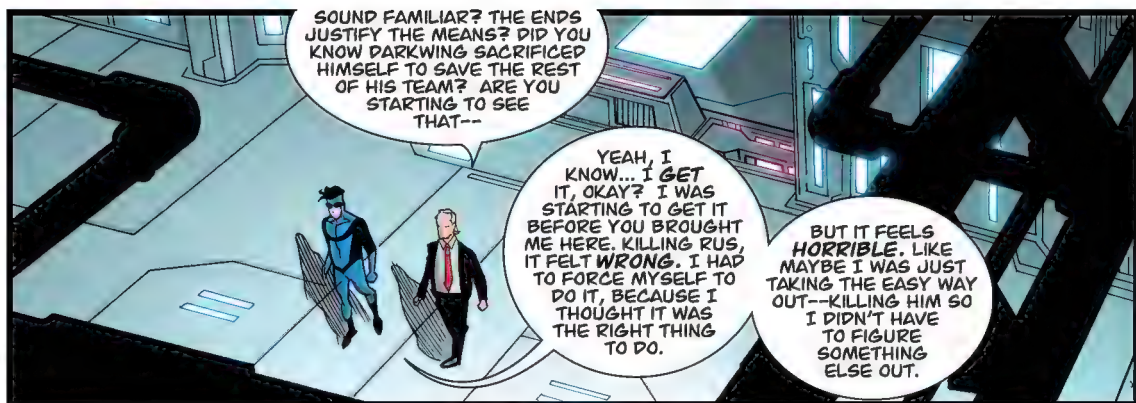


I'M NOT A BAD PERSON. **DRIVEN**--ALMOST DRIVEN MAD BY MY WORK, BUT ONLY BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING WAS RIGHT--THAT THE ENDS JUSTIFIED THE MEANS.

I REGRET WHAT I HAD TO DO, BUT I FIND COMFORT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IT HAD TO BE DONE--IN THE END, I WAS **RIGHT**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, D.A.

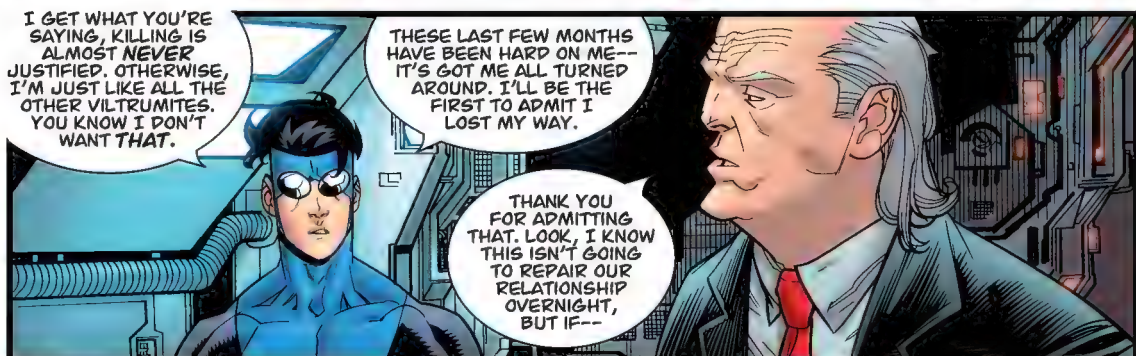
YEAH... THANKS--AND CONGRATULATIONS.



SOUND FAMILIAR? THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS? DID YOU KNOW PARKWING SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE THE REST OF HIS TEAM? ARE YOU STARTING TO SEE THAT--

YEAH, I KNOW... I GET IT, OKAY? I WAS STARTING TO GET IT BEFORE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE. KILLING RUS, IT FELT **WRONG**. I HAD TO FORCE MYSELF TO DO IT, BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

BUT IT FEELS **HORRIBLE**. LIKE MAYBE I WAS JUST TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT--KILLING HIM SO I DIDN'T HAVE TO FIGURE SOMETHING ELSE OUT.



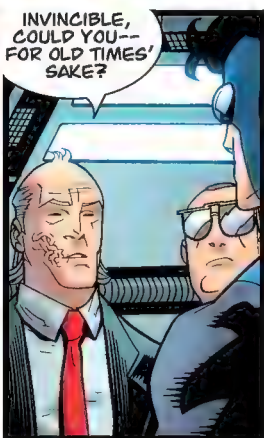
I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, KILLING IS **ALMOST NEVER** JUSTIFIED. OTHERWISE, I'M JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER VILTRUMITES. YOU KNOW I DON'T WANT THAT.

THESE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN HARD ON ME-- IT'S GOT ME ALL TURNED AROUND. I'LL BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT I LOST MY WAY.

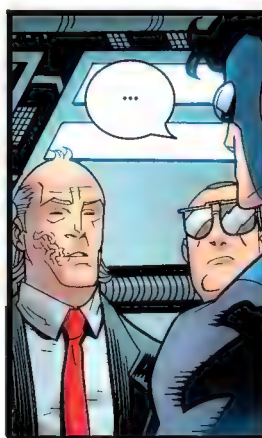
THANK YOU FOR ADMITTING THAT. LOOK, I KNOW THIS ISN'T GOING TO REPAIR OUR RELATIONSHIP OVERNIGHT, BUT IF--



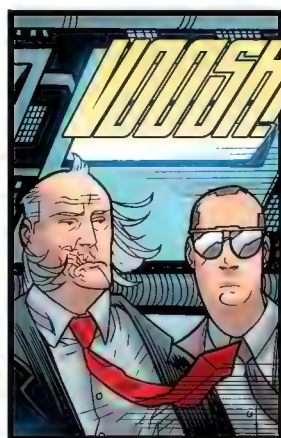
WE'VE GOT A SITUATION IN NEW YORK. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO SEND SOMEONE IN.



INVINCIBLE, COULD YOU-- FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE?



...



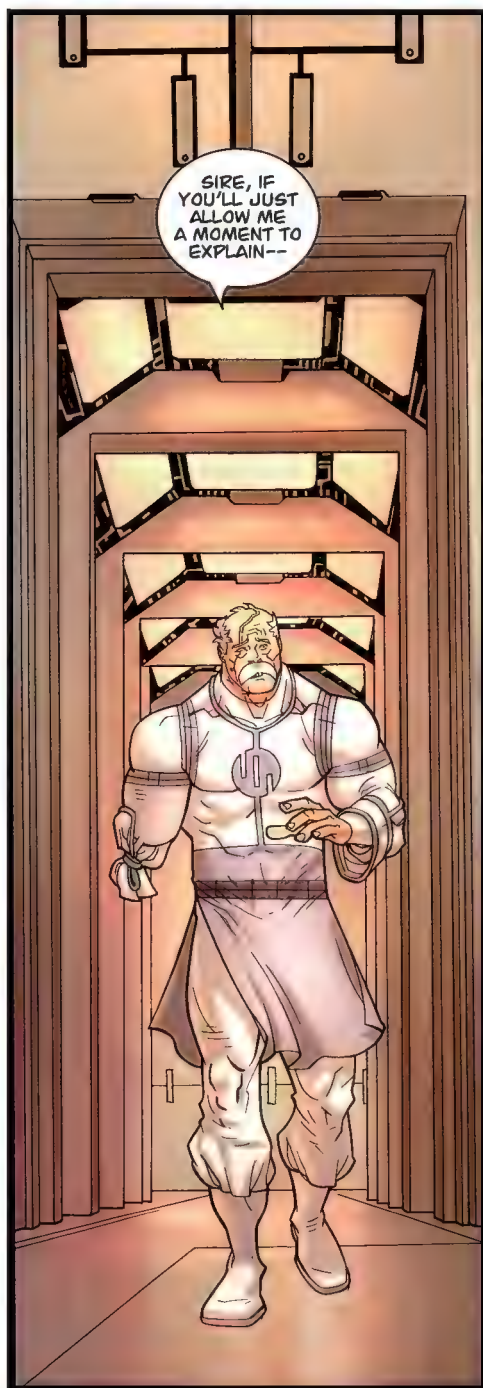
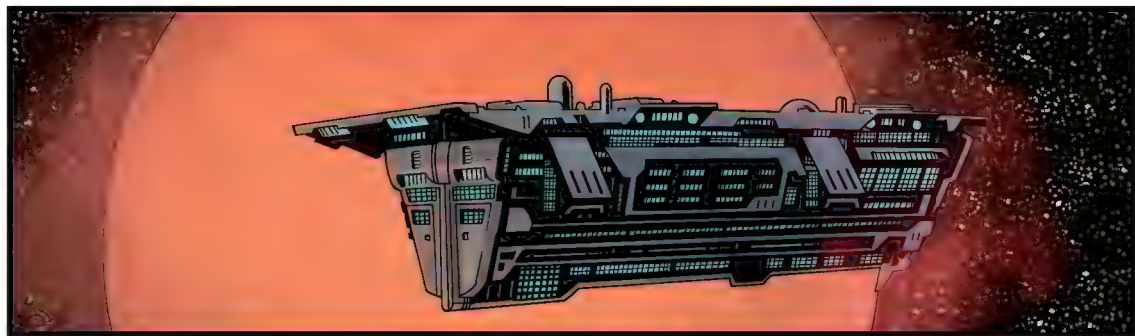
EXCELLENT TIMING, DONALD. AND NEW YORK? WE LUCKED OUT HAVING SOMETHING HAPPEN SO CLOSE, MAKES MORE SENSE TO ASK HIM.

I'M NOT COMFORTABLE MANIPULATING HIM LIKE THIS--AND I TAKE IT YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT CONQUEST?

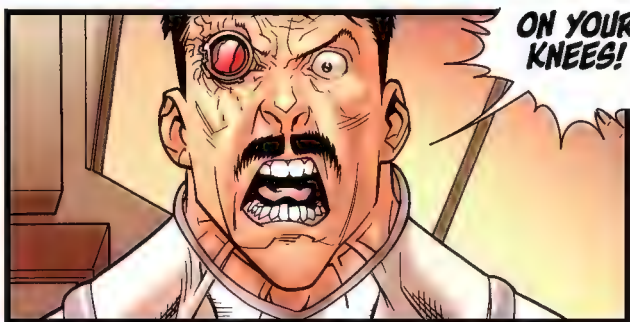
MANIPULATING? THIS IS **NOTHING**. I'M JUST USING HIM OBVIOUSLY SECOND GUESSING HIMSELF TO PULL HIM BACK TO OUR SIDE. HE'S TOO **POWERFUL** TO HAVE HIM OUT THERE ON HIS OWN.

AND TELLING HIM NOW THAT WE KEPT THAT MONSTER ALIVE WOULD ONLY TURN INVINCIBLE AGAINST US... AND HE'D BE RIGHT TO BE ANGRY. WE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE THERE.

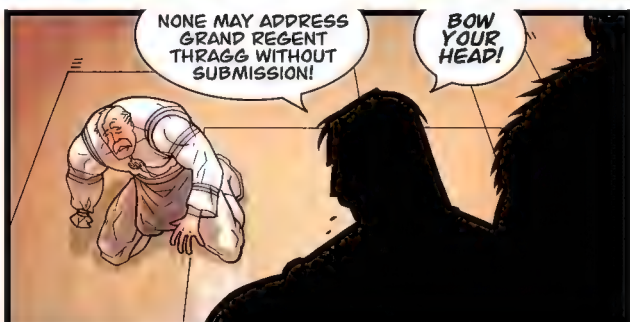
ONCE CONQUEST BROKE AWAY FROM OUR FACILITY, HE LEFT THE PLANET AND HASN'T COME BACK--MAYBE HE **WON'T** COME BACK. WE'LL WAIT UNTIL IT'S A PROBLEM BEFORE WE TAKE ANY ACTION.



SIRE, IF
YOU'LL JUST
ALLOW ME
A MOMENT TO
EXPLAIN--

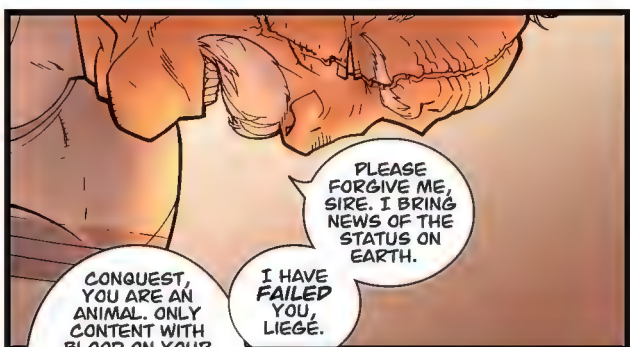


ON YOUR
KNEES!



NONE MAY ADDRESS
GRAND REGENT
THRAGG WITHOUT
SUBMISSION!

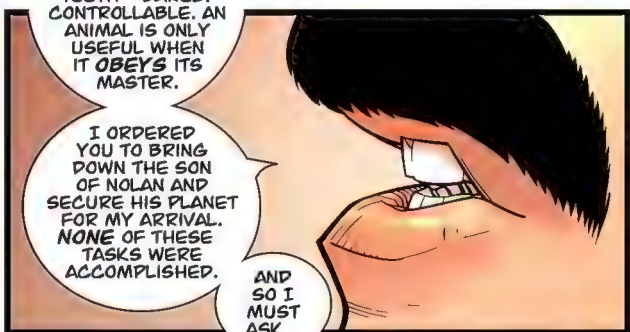
BOW
YOUR
HEAD!



PLEASE
FORGIVE ME,
SIRE. I BRING
NEWS OF THE
STATUS ON
EARTH.

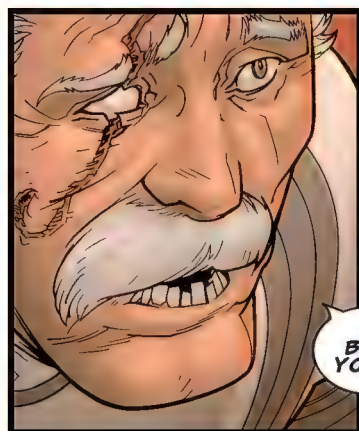
I HAVE
FAILED
YOU,
LIEGE.

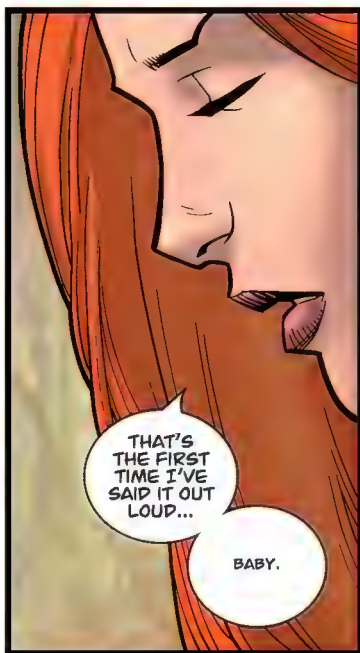
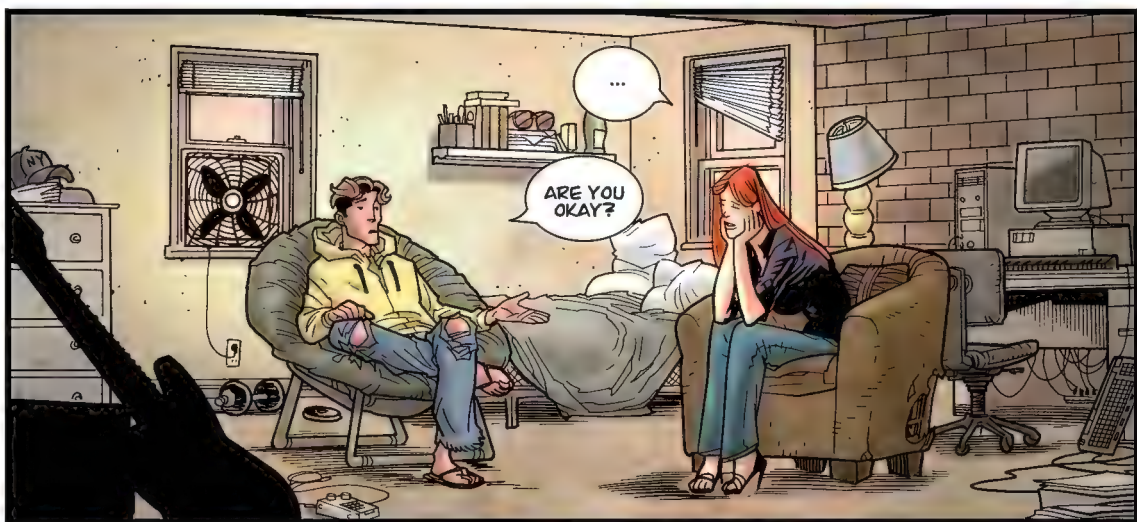
CONQUEST,
YOU ARE AN
ANIMAL. ONLY
CONTENT WITH
BLOOD ON YOUR
TEETH--BARELY
CONTROLLABLE. AN
ANIMAL IS ONLY
USEFUL WHEN
IT OBEYS ITS
MASTER.

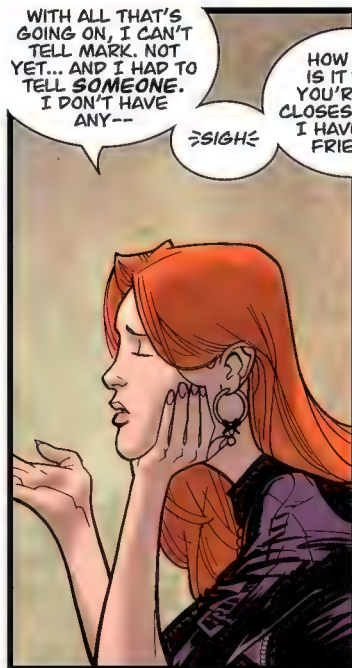
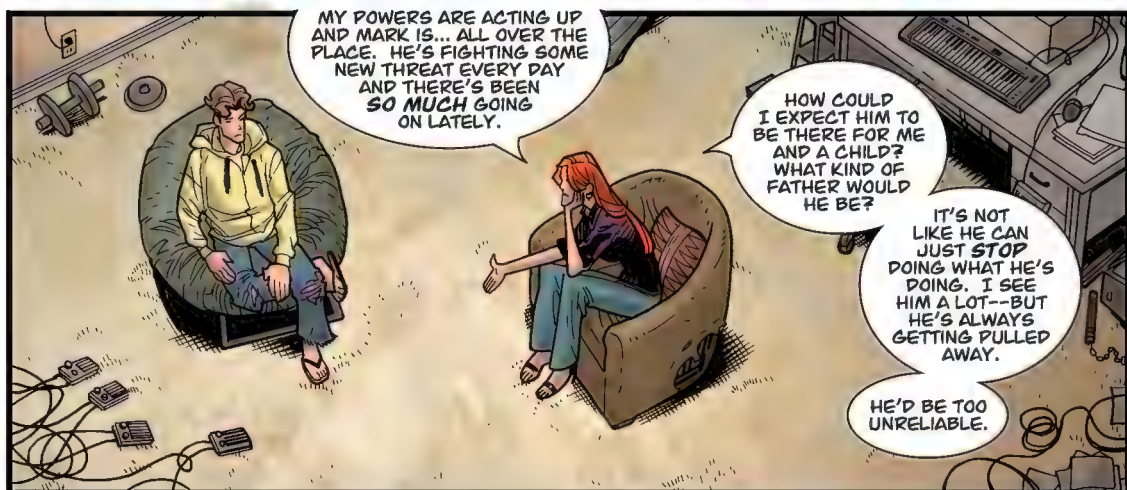
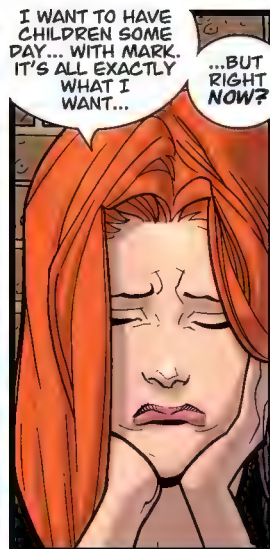
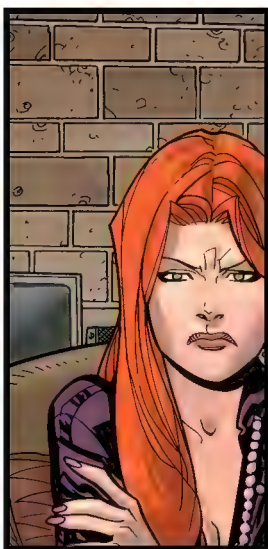
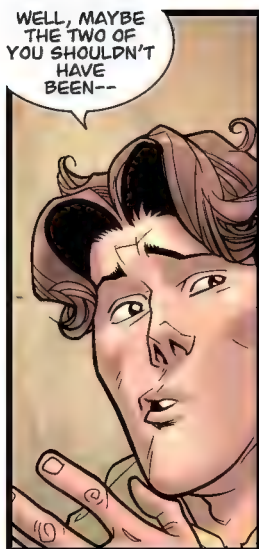


I ORDERED
YOU TO BRING
DOWN THE SON
OF NOLAN AND
SECURE HIS PLANET
FOR MY ARRIVAL.
NONE OF THESE
TASKS WERE
ACCOMPLISHED.

AND
SO I
MUST
ASK...









EATING AGAIN?
MY WORD,
OLIVER.

HUNGRY.

STARVING,
ACTUALLY. ARE
YOU GOING OUT
SOON? WE'RE
ALMOST OUT
OF CEREAL.

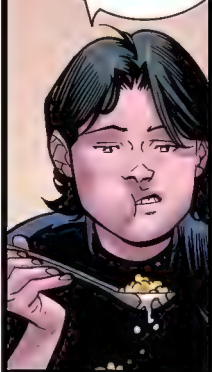
I'M GOING OUT
WITH PAUL LATER,
BUT I DON'T PLAN
ON HAVING THE
TIME TO GET
YOU MORE
CEREAL.



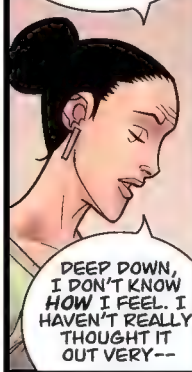
WHY
DON'T YOU
FLY YOUR
LITTLE BUTT
OVER TO THE
STORE AND
GET SOME
YOURSELF?

I'M
LAZY.

HOW ARE
THINGS
BETWEEN YOU
AND PAUL?
YOU'VE BEEN
SEEING HIM FOR
A WHILE. IS
THAT GETTING
SERIOUS?



SERIOUS? I DON'T
KNOW IF I'D GO
THAT FAR. HE'S A
GOOD COMPANION.
WE GET ALONG. I
ENJOY SPENDING
TIME WITH
HIM.



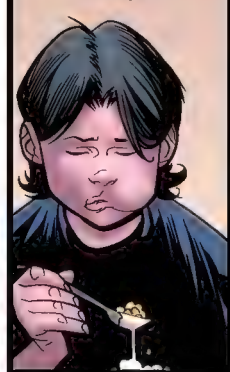
DEEP DOWN,
I DON'T KNOW
HOW I FEEL. I
HAVEN'T REALLY
THOUGHT IT
OUT VERY--

I'M NOT TALKING
TO YOU ABOUT
THIS! DON'T YOU
HAVE HOMEWORK
OR SOMETHING
TO BE DOING?



DON'T
YOU THINK
MARK
NEEDS HELP
SOMEWHERE?

OH... UH...
I SHOULD'NT
HAVE SAID
ANYTHING...



I'M
SORRY...
COME
HERE,
YOU.

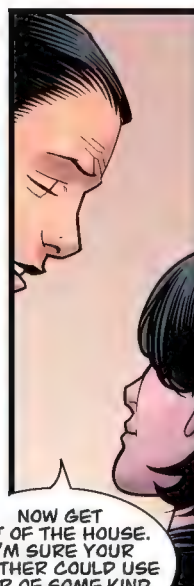


OLIVER,
KID...

I SURE
AM GLAD
YOU
CAME
ALONG.



NOW GET
OUT OF THE HOUSE.
I'M SURE YOUR
BROTHER COULD USE
HELP OF SOME KIND.



HELP DOING WHAT?
HE'S PROBABLY OFF
SOMEWHERE SPENDING
TIME WITH ATOM
EVE.

NEAR AS I
CAN TELL THAT'S
ALL HE DOES
THESE DAYS.



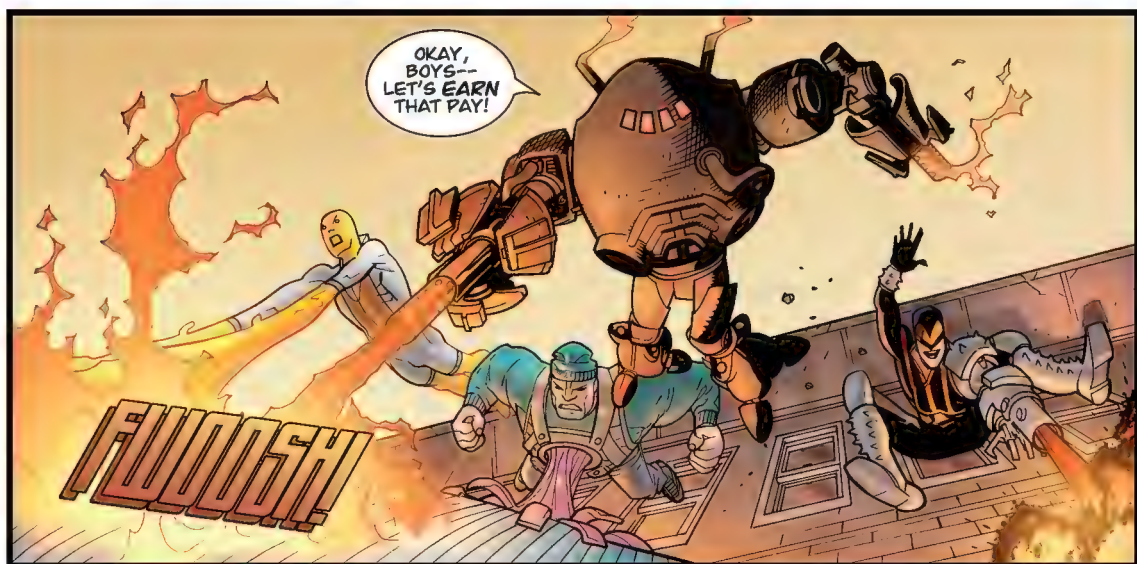


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING AGAIN!

RELAX!

NOBODY ASKED YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

KROOOOM!



OKAY,
BOYS--
LET'S EARN
THAT PAY!

FWOOSH!



THAT
SHOULD
KEEP HIM
BUSY.

GOOD--
YOU'LL
HAVE TIME
TO GIVE ME
ANSWERS!



THAT THING ATTACKED BOTH
OF US AT STRONGHOLD PRISON
A WHILE BACK. WHAT IS IT?!
WHY IS IT AFTER
YOU?

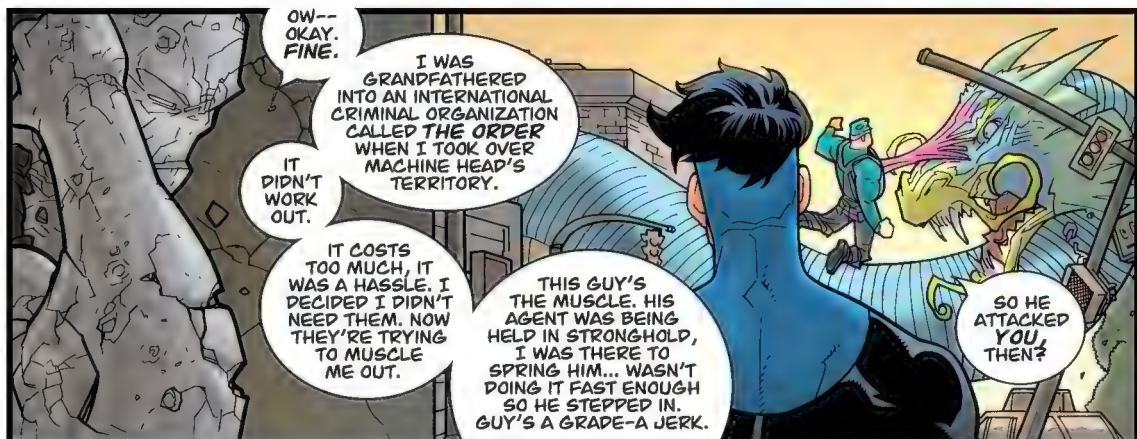
THIS IS
SIMPLY A DISPUTE
OVER MY TERRITORY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO
GET INVOLVED. THE
LESS YOU KNOW,
THE BETTER.
TRUST ME.



THAT'S
JUST NOT
GOING TO
CUT IT--

--TALK!

KROK!



OW--
OKAY.
FINE.

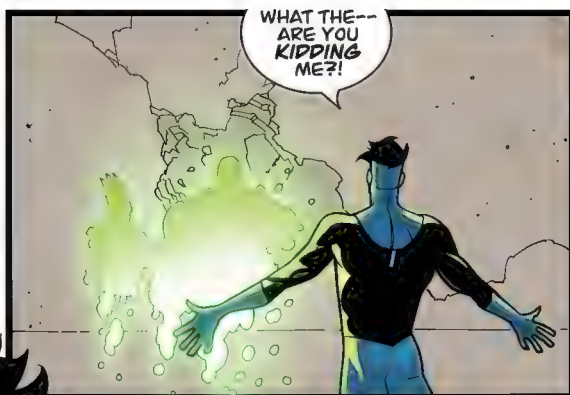
I WAS
GRANDFATHERED
INTO AN INTERNATIONAL
CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION
CALLED THE ORDER
WHEN I TOOK OVER
MACHINE HEAD'S
TERRITORY.

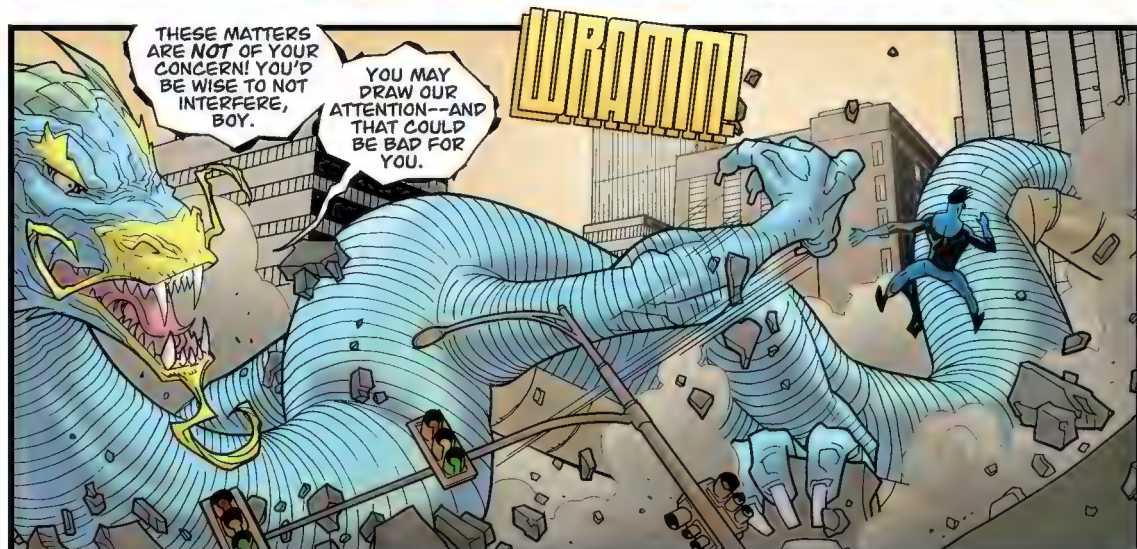
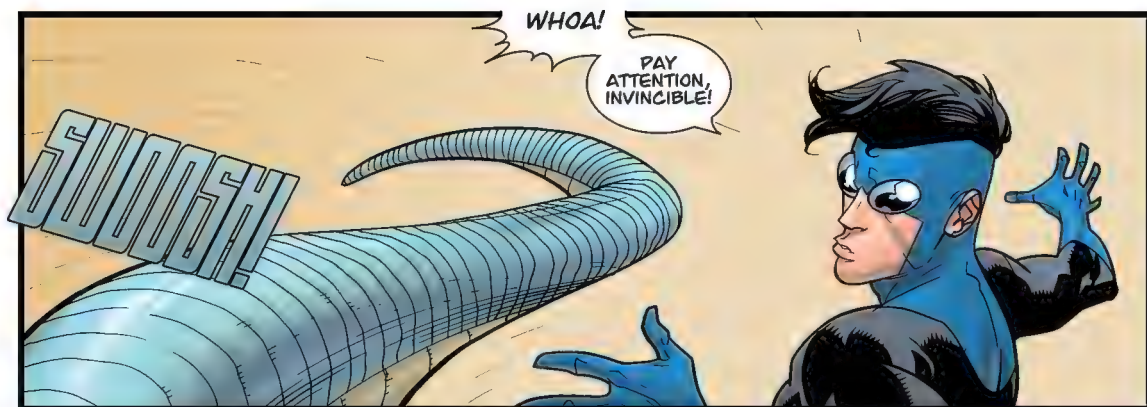
IT
DIDN'T
WORK
OUT.

IT COSTS
TOO MUCH, IT
WAS A HASSLE. I
DECIDED I DIDN'T
NEED THEM. NOW
THEY'RE TRYING
TO MUSCLE
ME OUT.

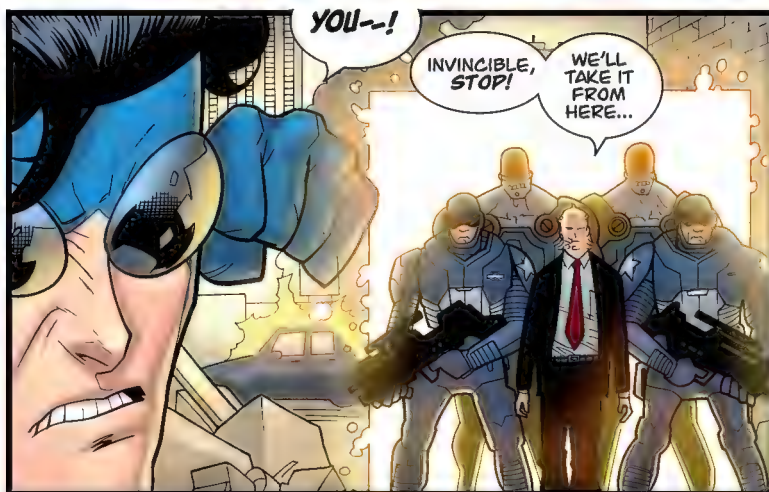
THIS GUY'S
THE MUSCLE. HIS
AGENT WAS BEING
HELD IN STRONGHOLD,
I WAS THERE TO
SPRING HIM... WASN'T
DOING IT FAST ENOUGH
SO HE STEPPED IN.
GUY'S A GRADE-A JERK.

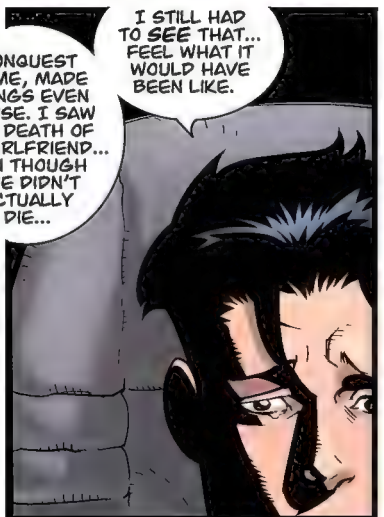
SO HE
ATTACKED
YOU,
THEN?











IT'S LIKE--NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT'S REALLY AT STAKE, I'M WILLING TO GO TO EXTREMES.



I KILLED A MAN.



...



I DID IT TO PREVENT MORE DEATHS... BUT IT STILL FELT SO WRONG.

AND I...



I ALMOST DID IT AGAIN, TODAY.

NOW THAT I'VE OPENED THAT DOOR, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN CLOSE IT. MY TEMPER GETS THE BEST OF ME...



...IT'S HARD TO HOLD BACK.

I CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT MYSELF ANYMORE. I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF MYSELF.

I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T WEAR THIS COSTUME ANY MORE. LIKE THIS WHOLE THING WAS A MISTAKE, BEING INVINCIBLE...



NONSENSE. THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SITTING HERE, QUESTIONING YOUR ACTIONS, PROVES THAT YOU'RE A GOOD MAN.

YOU'VE STRAYED, MAYBE CROSSED A LINE OR TWO, BUT YOU RECOGNIZE THAT. SO MANY OTHERS DON'T. I'VE SEEN IT TOO MANY TIMES.



WHAT YOU DO COMES WITH AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PRESSURE. IT WEARS ON YOU.

YOU'RE HANDLING IT BETTER THAN MOST--AND YOU'VE SEEN THE WORST THIS JOB HAS TO OFFER.



IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T WEAR THAT COSTUME ANYMORE... THEN DON'T WEAR THAT COSTUME ANYMORE.

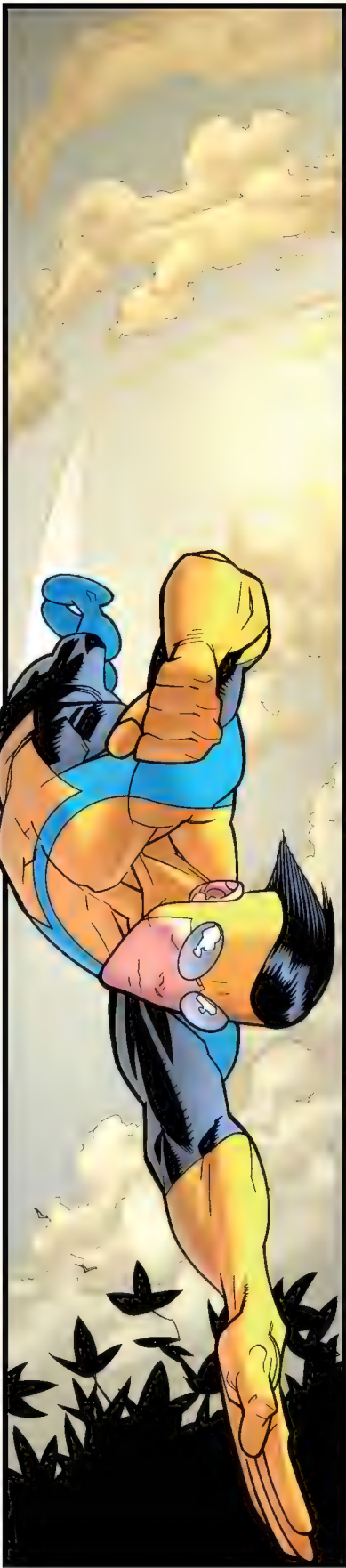


I CAN'T GO BACK IN TIME, I CAN'T UNDO WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

BUT IF YOU'RE READY TO GO BACK TO THE MAN YOU WERE, IF THAT'S REALLY WHO YOU WANT TO BE... I CAN MAKE SURE YOU LOOK THE PART.







I WAS WORRIED, THEN I SAW YOU ON THE NEWS. THOUGHT YOU'D BE HOME SOON SO I CAME UP HERE.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN THE MARKET FOR A COSTUME CHANGE.

YEAH. I WENT TO SEE ART.

WE TALKED ABOUT MY RECENT MISSTEPS, HOW MUCH I'D LIKE TO GO BACK A FEW STEPS. FOR ART THAT MEANT A COSTUME CHANGE.

YOU KNOW HOW HE IS.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE SNOT BEATEN OUT OF YOU... SO I ASSUME YOUR "TALK" WITH CECIL WENT FINE.

IT DID.

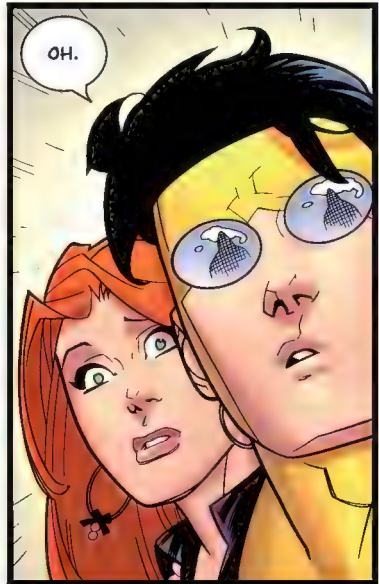
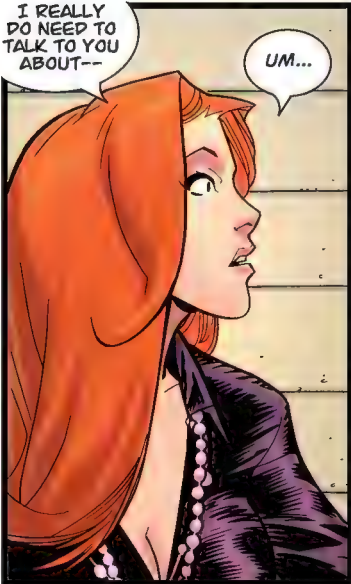
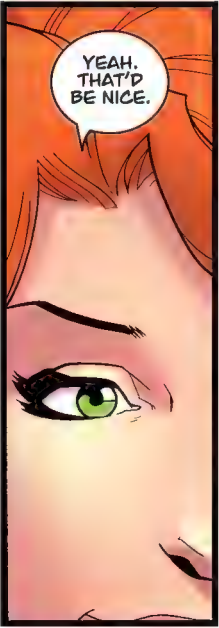
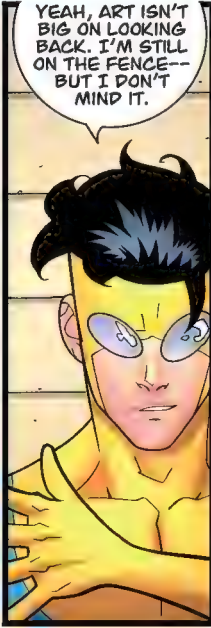
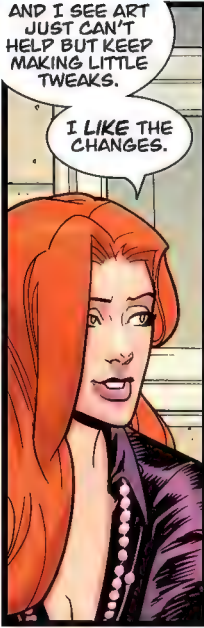
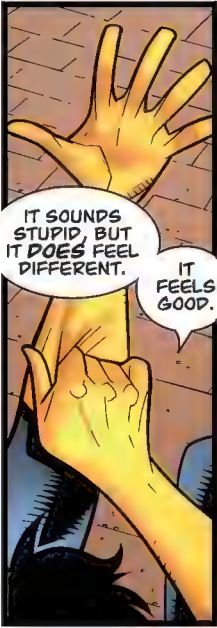
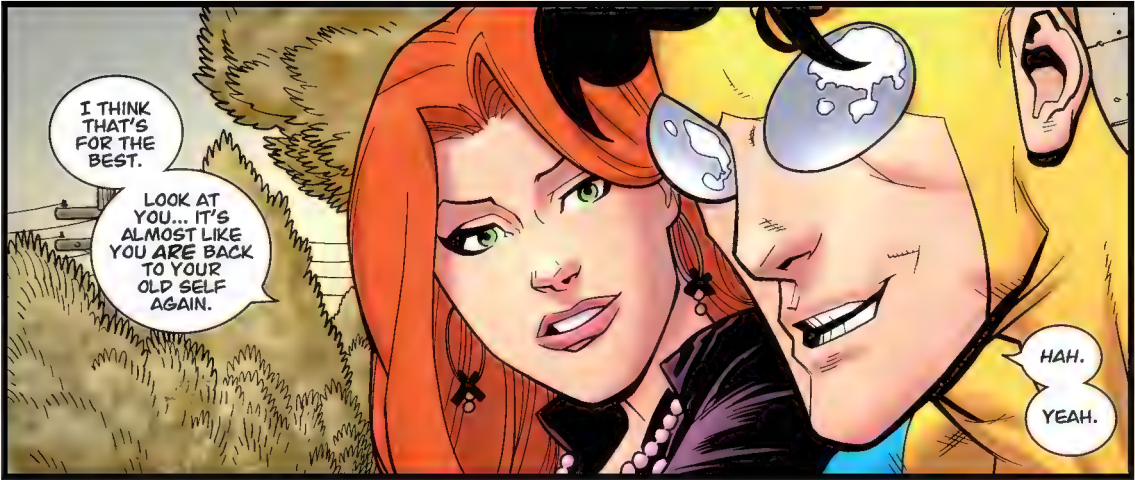
IT WAS A JUSTIFIED LECTURE. HE'S WORRIED ABOUT MY RECENT ACTIONS, WHAT IT COULD MEAN FOR ME.

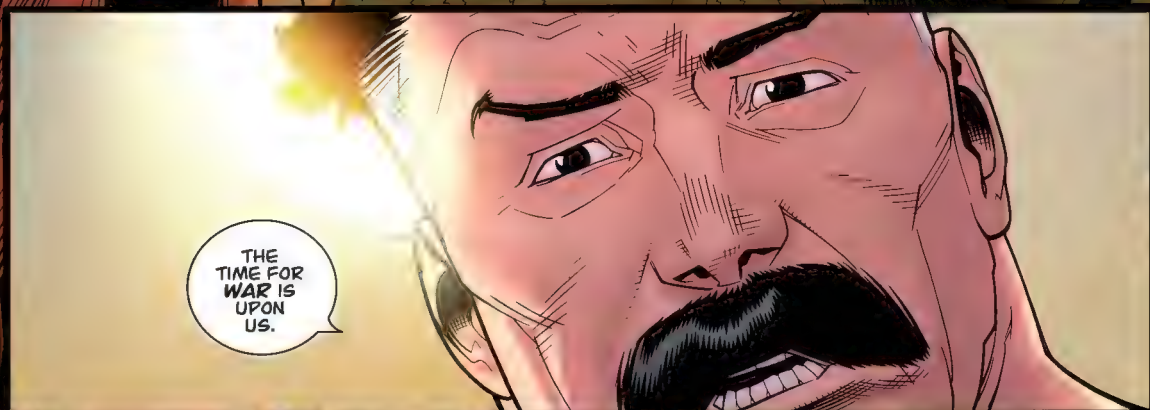
WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE SHOWED UP.

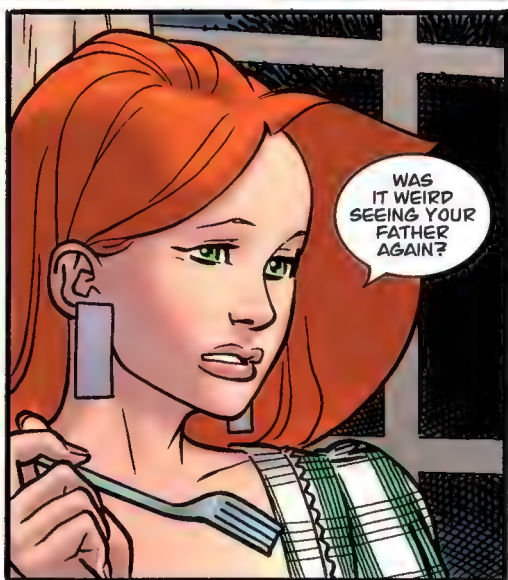
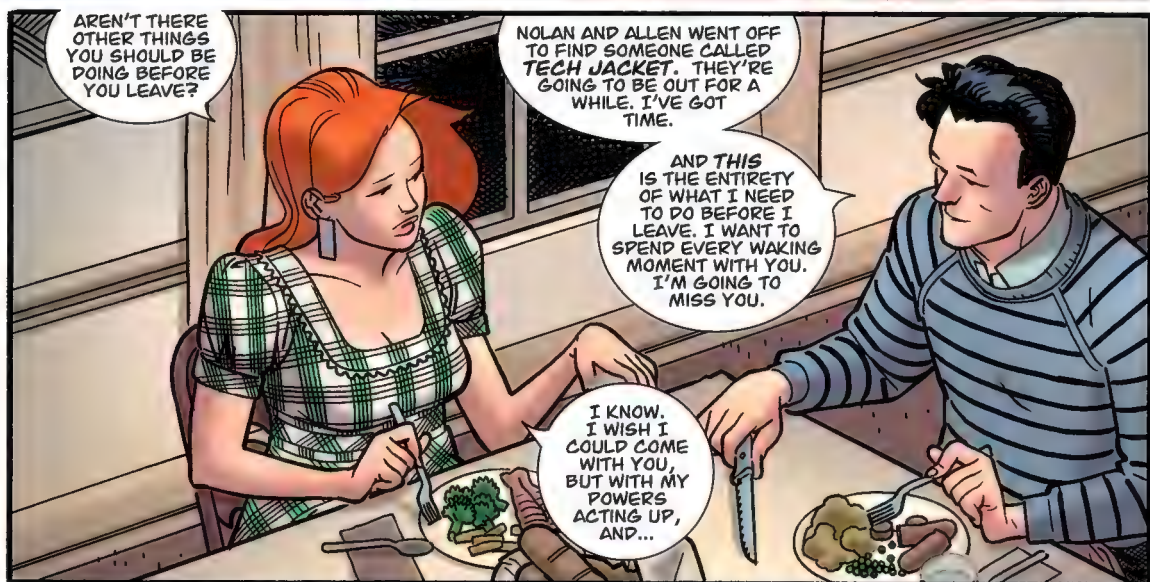
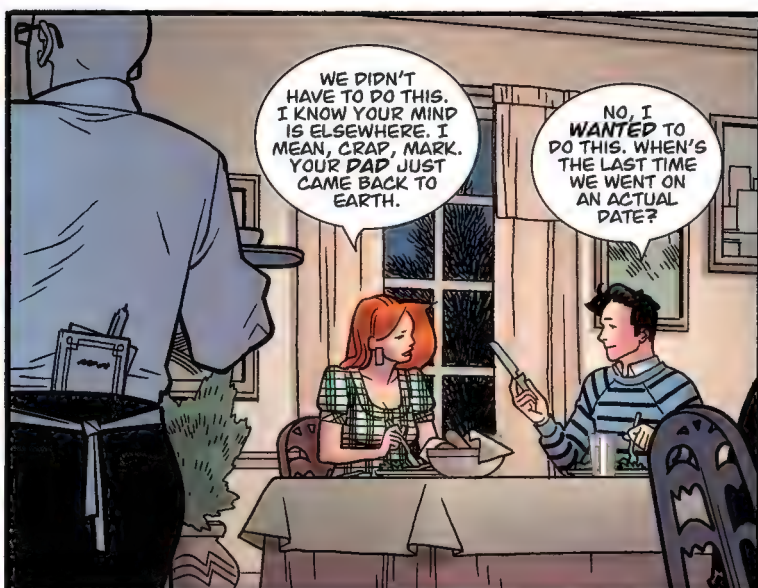
AND?


I'M DONE WITH KILLING-- IT'S TOO EASY, IT CHANGES THINGS. I'M JUST NOT CONVINCED IT'S THE ANSWER ANYMORE.

EVEN IF IT WOULD PREVENT FUTURE ATTACKS... IT SEEMS TO ALSO POTENTIALLY PREVENT GOOD THINGS.







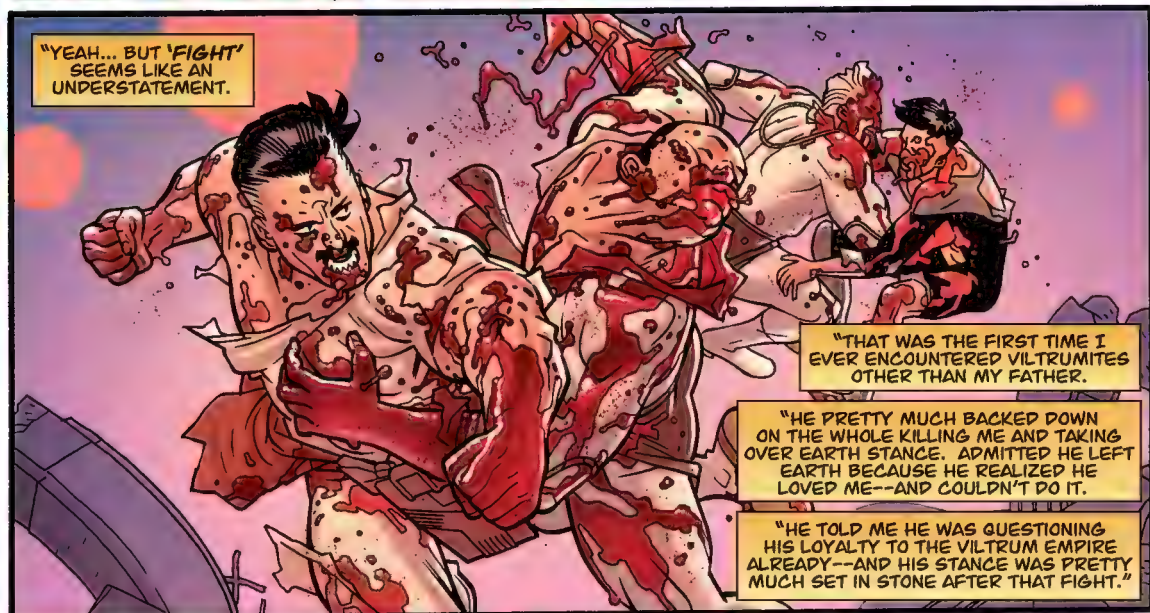
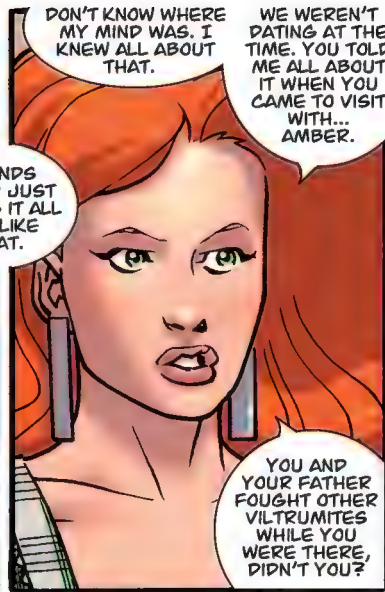


"YOU MEAN
BECAUSE HE
TRIED TO KILL
ME ONCE?"

"OR IS IT THE FACT
THAT BEFORE DOING
SO, HE REVEALED TO
ME AFTER BEING A
COMPLETELY NORMAL,
ALBEIT SUPERHERO
DAD ALL MY LIFE THAT
HE WAS ACTUALLY A
MEMBER OF AN ALIEN
RACE OUT TO CONQUER
THE UNIVERSE AND
HE WANTED MY HELP
TAKING OVER EARTH?"

"OR IS IT THAT HE TOLD ME
DURING THE FIGHT THAT HE
WAS COMPLETELY PREPARED
TO KILL ME, WAS INDIFFERENT
ABOUT THAT, AND CONSIDERED
MY MOTHER TO BE LITTLE
MORE THAN A PET?"

"OR, WELL... ALL
OF THE ABOVE?"



OKAY, SO NOW THAT WE'RE OUT OF THERE AND CAN SPEAK FREELY--YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I KNOW NEXT TO **NOTHING** ABOUT VILTRUMITES. IT'S THIS LOOMING THREAT THAT HANGS OVER YOUR HEAD EVERY SECOND OF EVERY DAY AND YOU NEXT TO **NEVER** TALK ABOUT IT.



CAN YOU JUST TELL ME EVERYTHING--EVEN IF YOU THINK I ALREADY KNOW SOME OF IT?



EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT VILTRUMITES?

THIS SHOULD TAKE TWO MINUTES.

OH, WHATEVER. YOU HAVE TO KNOW **SOMETHING** ABOUT THEM.

I'M UP TO SPEED ON EVERYTHING BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR DAD AND EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WITH... CONQUEST.

IT'S ALL THE **BETWEEN** STUFF THAT I'M IN THE DARK ABOUT.

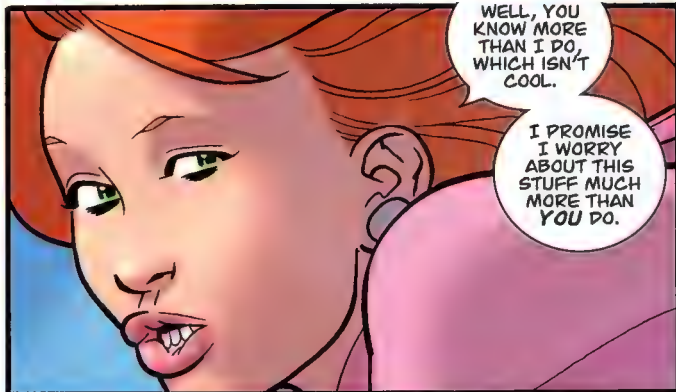
I'VE HAD BRIEF ENCOUNTERS HERE AND THERE, BUT I REALLY KNOW NEXT TO **NOTHING** ABOUT THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THEIR LEADER IS.



WELL, YOU KNOW MORE THAN I DO, WHICH ISN'T COOL.

I PROMISE I WORRY ABOUT THIS STUFF MUCH MORE THAN YOU DO.



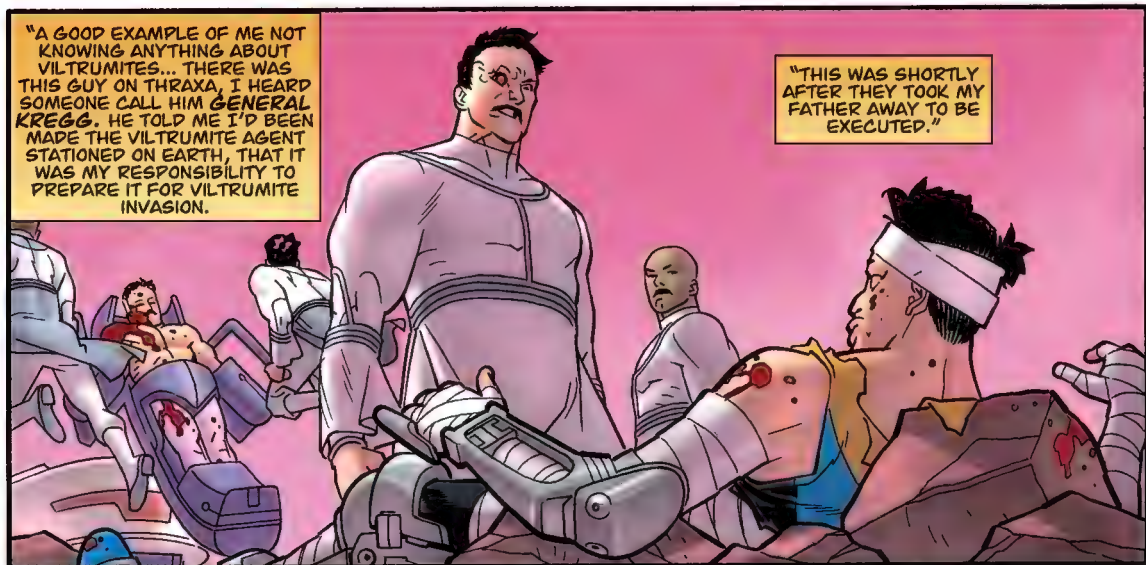
I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S TOO OVERWHELMING.

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED. I THOUGHT MY DAD WAS DEAD. HE WAS SCHEDULED FOR EXECUTION.

I KNOW, IF IT'S TOO HARD TO TALK ABOUT, I UNDERSTAND.

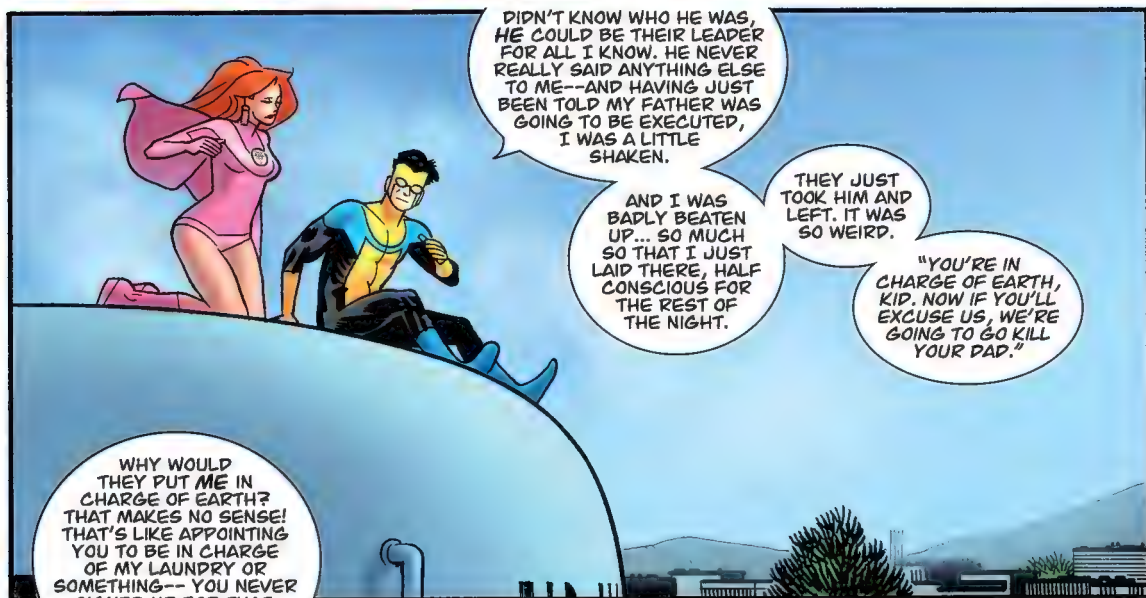
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T WANT YOU FEELING LEFT IN THE DARK. THIS IS TOO BIG.





"A GOOD EXAMPLE OF ME NOT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT VILTRUMITES... THERE WAS THIS GUY ON THRAXA, I HEARD SOMEONE CALL HIM **GENERAL KREGG**. HE TOLD ME I'D BEEN MADE THE VILTRUMITE AGENT STATIONED ON EARTH, THAT IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO PREPARE IT FOR VILTRUMITE INVASION.

"THIS WAS SHORTLY AFTER THEY TOOK MY FATHER AWAY TO BE EXECUTED."



DIDN'T KNOW WHO HE WAS, HE COULD BE THEIR LEADER FOR ALL I KNOW. HE NEVER REALLY SAID ANYTHING ELSE TO ME--AND HAVING JUST BEEN TOLD MY FATHER WAS GOING TO BE EXECUTED, I WAS A LITTLE SHAKEN.

AND I WAS BADLY BEATEN UP... SO MUCH SO THAT I JUST LAID THERE, HALF CONSCIOUS FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT.

THEY JUST TOOK HIM AND LEFT. IT WAS SO WEIRD.

"YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF EARTH, KID. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US, WE'RE GOING TO GO KILL YOUR DAD."

WHY WOULD THEY PUT ME IN CHARGE OF EARTH? THAT MAKES NO SENSE! THAT'S LIKE APPOINTING YOU TO BE IN CHARGE OF MY LAUNDRY OR SOMETHING-- YOU NEVER SIGNED UP FOR THAT. IT'S SOMETHING I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO DO.



BUT YOUR DAD'S OKAY... AND HE'S TOTALLY GONE "GOOD GUY" NOW. HE'S FIGHTING FOR THIS COALITION OF PLANETS THING?

HIS SPINE WAS BROKEN ON THRAXA. THERE'S SOME CREEPY VILTRUMITE LAW WHERE YOU CAN'T BE EXECUTED UNLESS YOU'RE COMPLETELY WHOLE... IN PERFECT CONDITION.

IN THE TIME IT TOOK HIM TO HEAL, ALLEN FOUND HIS WAY TO HIM AND HELPED HIM ESCAPE.

THEY'RE LIKE BEST FRIENDS NOW.

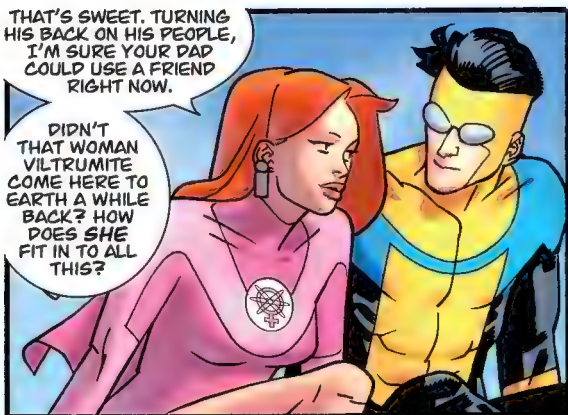
THAT'S COOL.

I'M CURIOUS, THOUGH? HOW DID YOUR DAD ESCAPE?

THESE ARE MY PEOPLE.

THAT'S SWEET. TURNING HIS BACK ON HIS PEOPLE, I'M SURE YOUR DAD COULD USE A FRIEND RIGHT NOW.

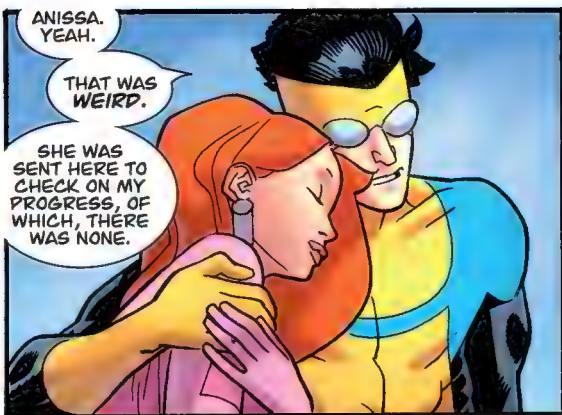
DIDN'T THAT WOMAN VILTRUMITE COME HERE TO EARTH A WHILE BACK? HOW DOES SHE FIT IN TO ALL THIS?



ANISSA. YEAH.

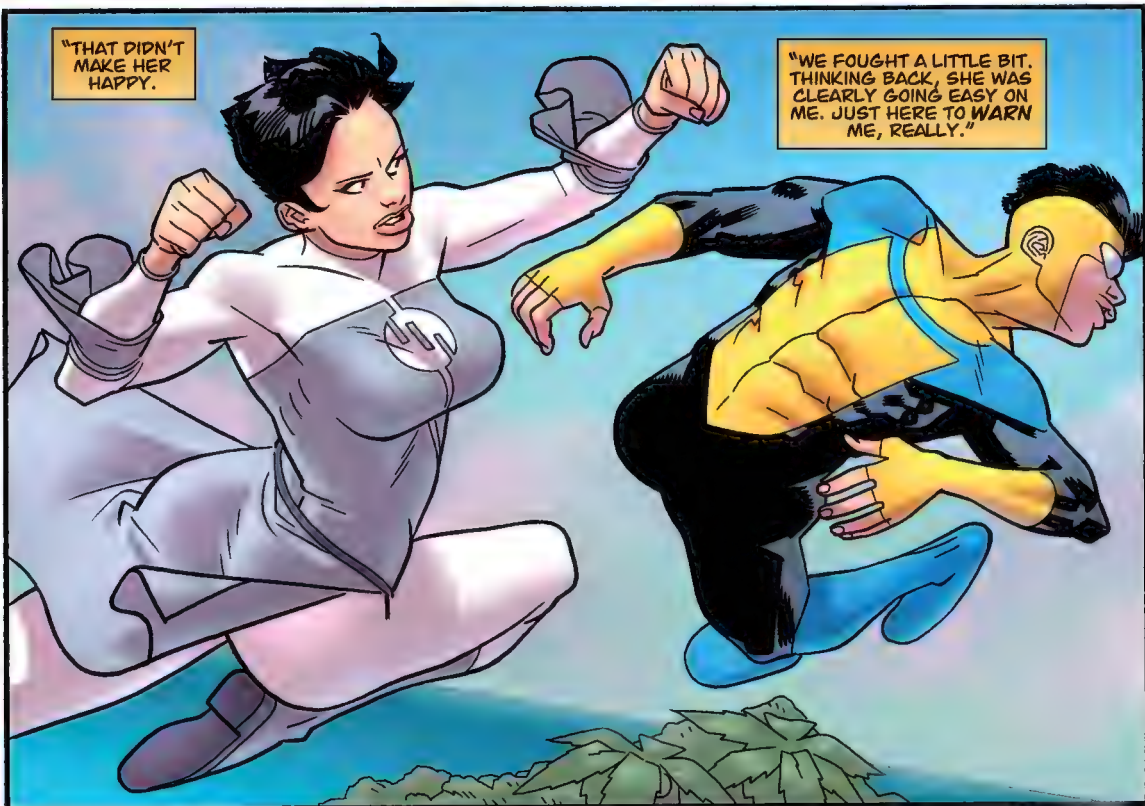
THAT WAS WEIRD.

SHE WAS SENT HERE TO CHECK ON MY PROGRESS, OF WHICH, THERE WAS NONE.



"THAT DIDN'T MAKE HER HAPPY.

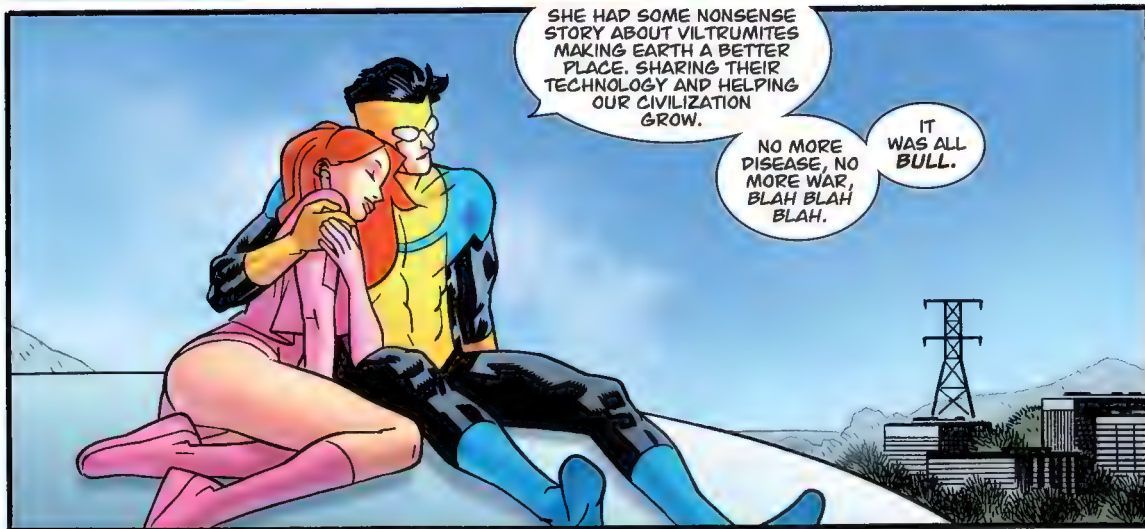
"WE FOUGHT A LITTLE BIT. THINKING BACK, SHE WAS CLEARLY GOING EASY ON ME. JUST HERE TO WARN ME, REALLY."



SHE HAD SOME NONSENSE STORY ABOUT VILTRUMITES MAKING EARTH A BETTER PLACE. SHARING THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND HELPING OUR CIVILIZATION GROW.

NO MORE DISEASE, NO MORE WAR, BLAH BLAH BLAH.

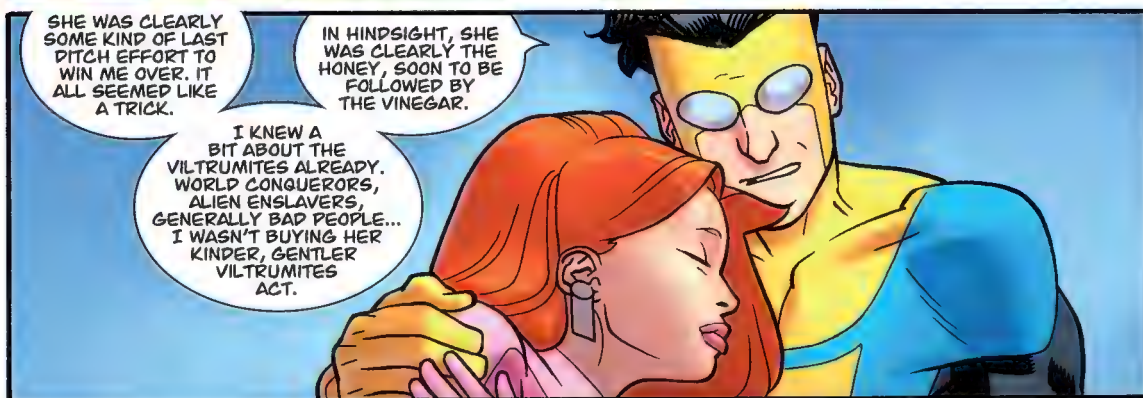
IT WAS ALL BULL.





"SHE EVEN HELPED ME SAVE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE AS SOME KIND OF FORCED DISPLAY OF THE GOOD THE VILTRUMITES COULD DO.

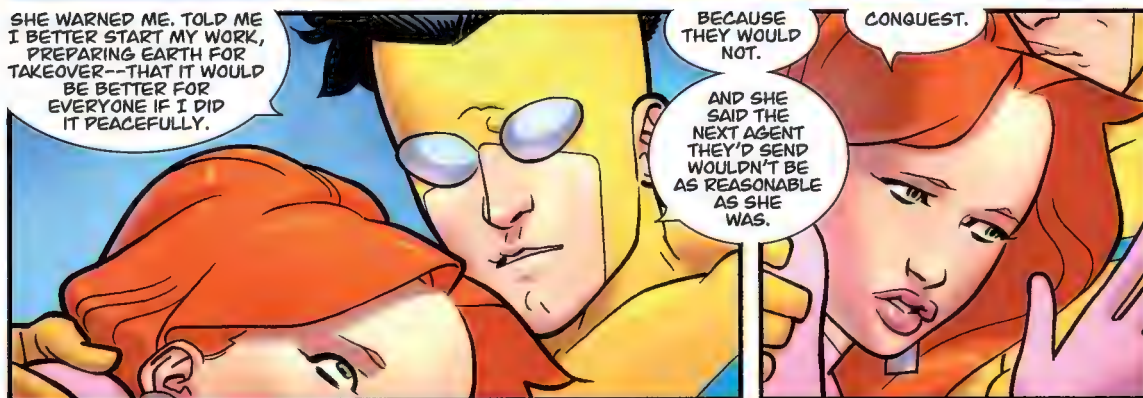
"I DIDN'T BUY IT."



SHE WAS CLEARLY SOME KIND OF LAST DITCH EFFORT TO WIN ME OVER. IT ALL SEEMED LIKE A TRICK.

IN HINDSIGHT, SHE WAS CLEARLY THE HONEY, SOON TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE VINEGAR.

I KNEW A BIT ABOUT THE VILTRUMITES ALREADY. WORLD CONQUERORS, ALIEN ENSLAVERS, GENERALLY BAD PEOPLE... I WASN'T BUYING HER KINDER, GENTLER VILTRUMITES ACT.

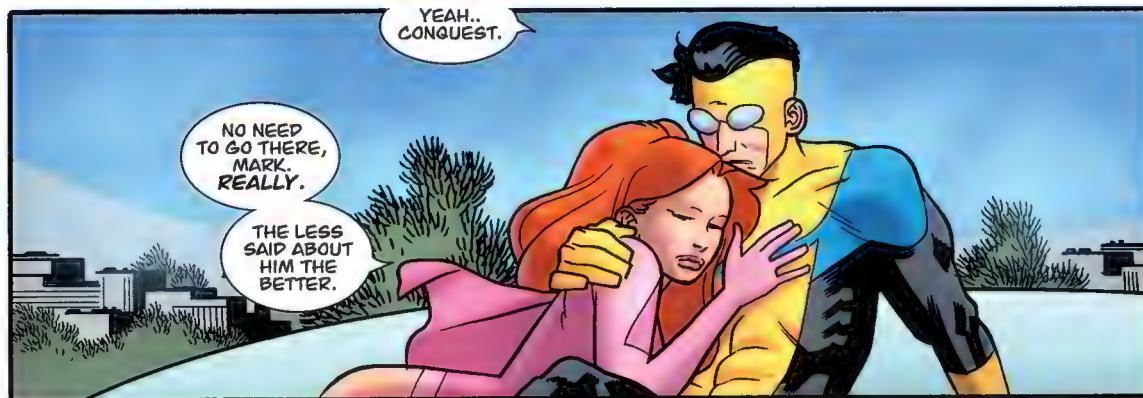


SHE WARNED ME. TOLD ME I BETTER START MY WORK, PREPARING EARTH FOR TAKEOVER--THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR EVERYONE IF I DID IT PEACEFULLY.

BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT.

CONQUEST.

AND SHE SAID THE NEXT AGENT THEY'D SEND WOULDN'T BE AS REASONABLE AS SHE WAS.

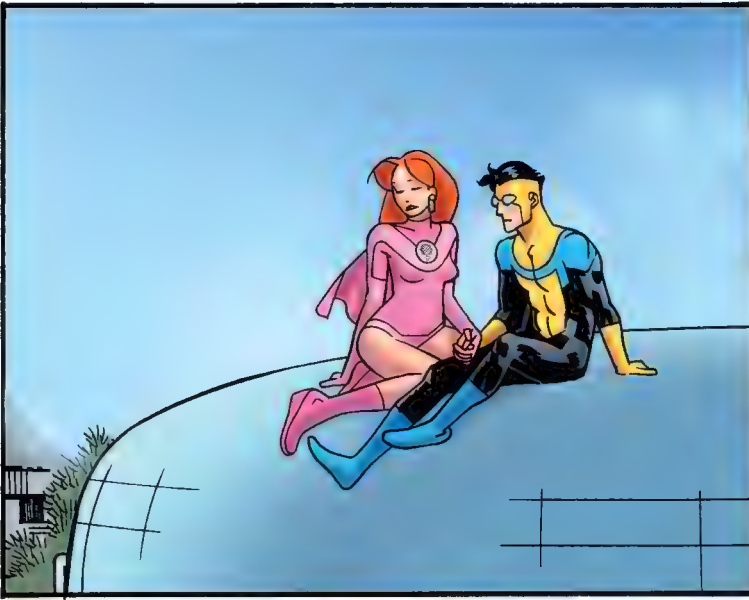


YEAH.. CONQUEST.

NO NEED TO GO THERE, MARK. REALLY.

THE LESS SAID ABOUT HIM THE BETTER.



A large close-up of the man's face. He is wearing a yellow mask with two large, oval-shaped eyes. He has a slight smile and is looking down. The background is a clear blue sky.

MY DAD TELLS ME THEIR NUMBERS ARE ASTONISHINGLY LOW. SOME VIRUS HAS DWINDLED THEIR POPULATION DOWN TO NEXT TO NOTHING.

SO THE BATTLE, ACCORDING TO THE COALITION OF PLANETS, IS VERY WINNABLE.

MY DAD HAS BEEN WORKING WITH ALLEN THE ALIEN, GATHERING THE THINGS LISTED IN HIS BOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AGAINST THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

HE SAYS NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIKE.

A close-up of the woman's face. She has long red hair and is wearing a pink suit. She is looking up and to the right with a concerned expression. The background is a clear blue sky.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

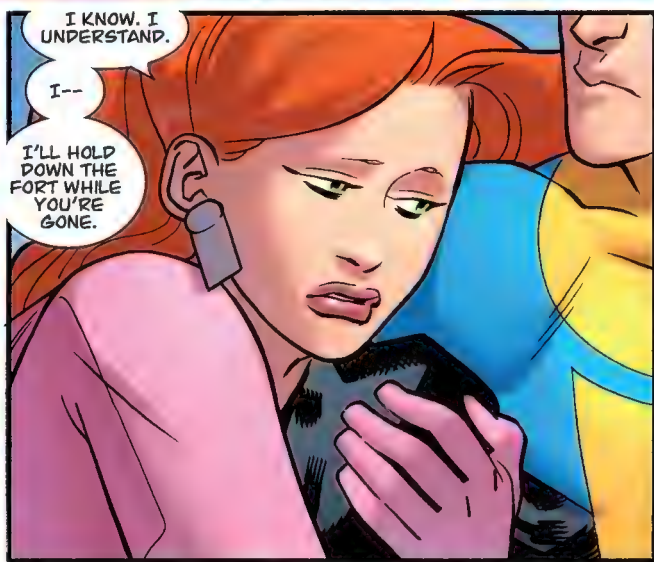
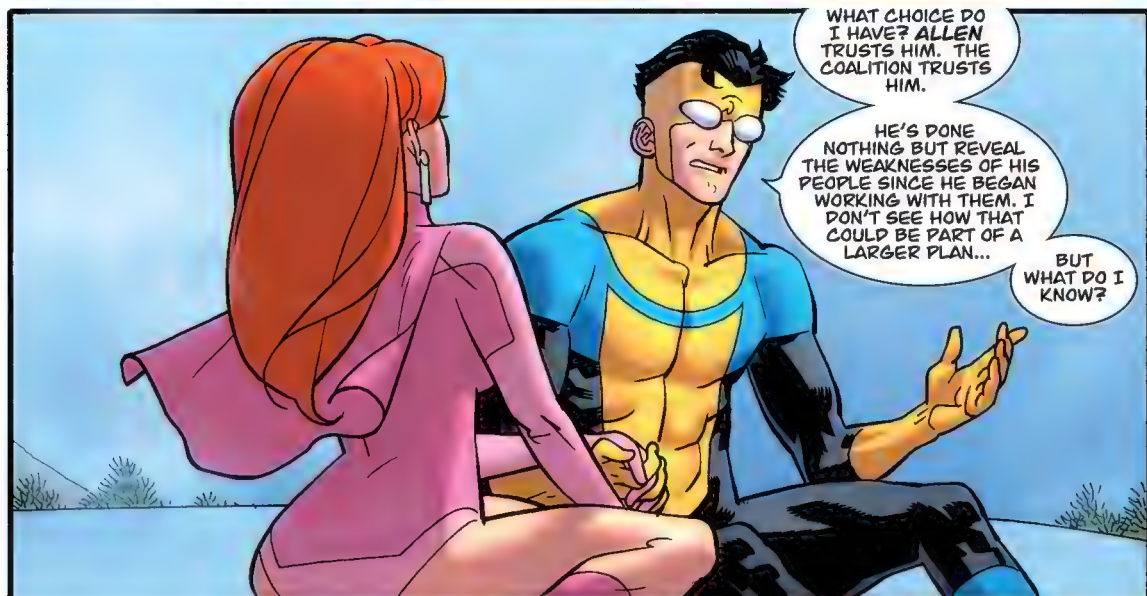
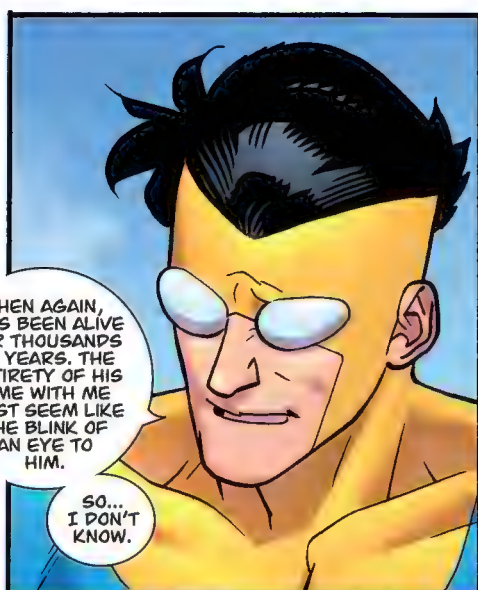
A close-up of the man's face. He is wearing a yellow mask with two large, oval-shaped eyes. He is looking down and to the left with a slight smile. The background is a clear blue sky.

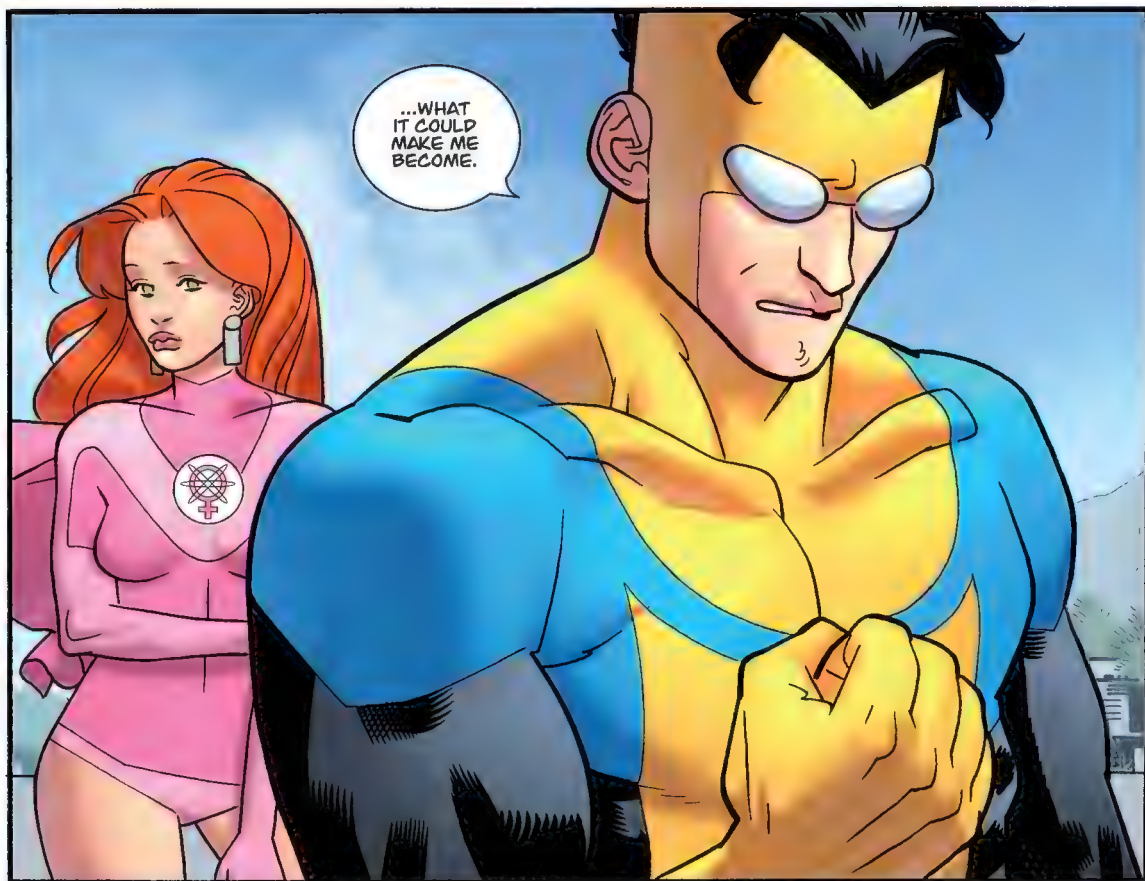
THEY'VE SINGLED OUT EARTH BECAUSE OF OUR COMPATIBLE PNA... THAT'S THE RESOURCE THEY WANT FROM US. WE'RE A WAY FOR THEM TO RESTORE THEIR POPULATION.

I WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE IN THIS BATTLE. I'M JUST GLAD MY FATHER IS ON MY SIDE.

A close-up of the woman's face. She has long red hair and is wearing a pink suit. She is looking up and to the right with a concerned expression. The background is a clear blue sky.

DO YOU TRUST HIM?







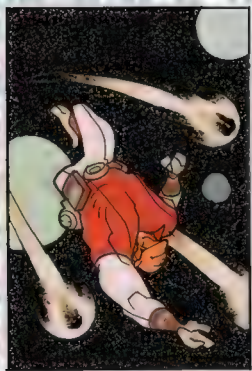
INV TPB 13



ROBERT KIRKMAN: Look at that, there's another awesome trade paper back cover by ye olde Ryan Ottley. I think this might possibly be the last time that Ryan will ever draw the Sequids, I mean, I've got no plans to bring them back at this point, but who knows. What do you think, Ryan? Should we bring them back--do you miss drawing those little pink things?

RYAN OTTLEY: I hate to admit this in front of everyone, but yes I do miss them. The reason is that I can use them to cover up a lot of background. Mindless noodling is much easier than drawing cars and buildings and stuff. So yeah, if you ever want to bring them back, I won't complain.





KIRKMAN: So the plan to have *Invincible* co-creator Cory Walker come back to do a couple issues, focusing on Allen the Alien, had been in the works for a good long time. If I recall, we began talking about this before issue 50, when the Viltrumite War was originally planned to begin (before I ran out of room). These cover sketches were done back then when we first decided to do these issues.

CORY WALKER: *The two versions of that cover that feature only Allen were done in 2006, I think.*

OTTLEY: *Well I want Cory to come back and do MORE issues, I loved having him do these two. So please, Cory, come back and do an issue every once in a while. It looks awesome AND it gives me a break. Win-win I say.*



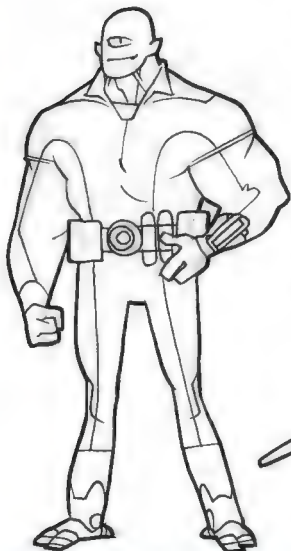


KIRKMAN: Later, when it finally came time to do these issues, I decided to change the story up a little and have it feature Nolan as well as Allen. So the cover had to be adjusted somewhat before it became what we know and love as the cover to issue 66.

WALKER: I'm pretty pleased with how this cover turned out. Upside-down is the new black.

OTTLEY: Yeah I remember drawing the cover to 46, the one with Immortal and Allen fighting on the moon, that was Robert's idea to do the upside-down cover, he hesitated because he wasn't sure if he wanted to interfere with Cory's upside down cover. As if Cory had a copyright on upside downness. It all worked out though, and I love the hell out of Cory's covers.

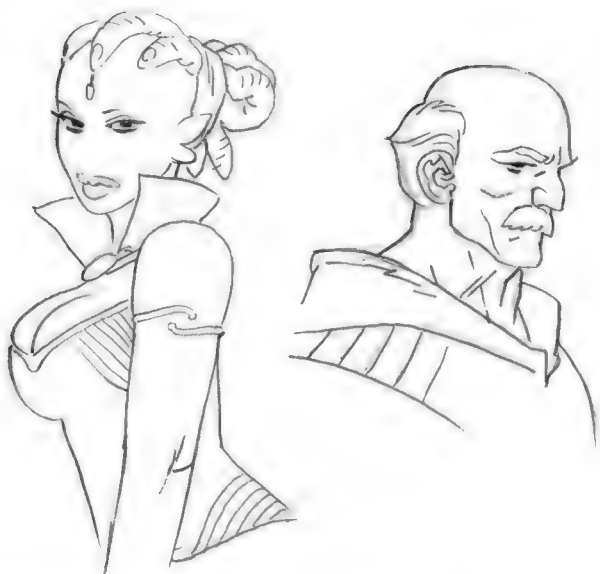




KIRKMAN: Some sketches and page layouts, done around the time when we first started talking about this. I actually wrote a few pages way back then that weren't used. This was well before Cory and I ever did those issues of *The Irredeemable Ant-Man* or our *Destroyer* mini-series (that you should all run out and purchase). The original plan was to open on a splash page of Telia... I kind of miss that. Such a shame.

WALKER: Eh, it all worked out for the best. Can't beat the opening that echoes issue 2, as far as I'm concerned. Again, this stuff was all done way back in 2006. Weird.

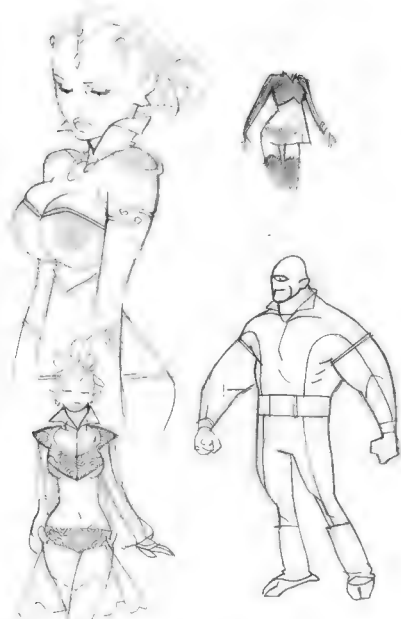
OTTLEY: The small touches that Cory adds to a character almost make them *NEW*, like Telia's hair up like that. Just an awesome little detail.

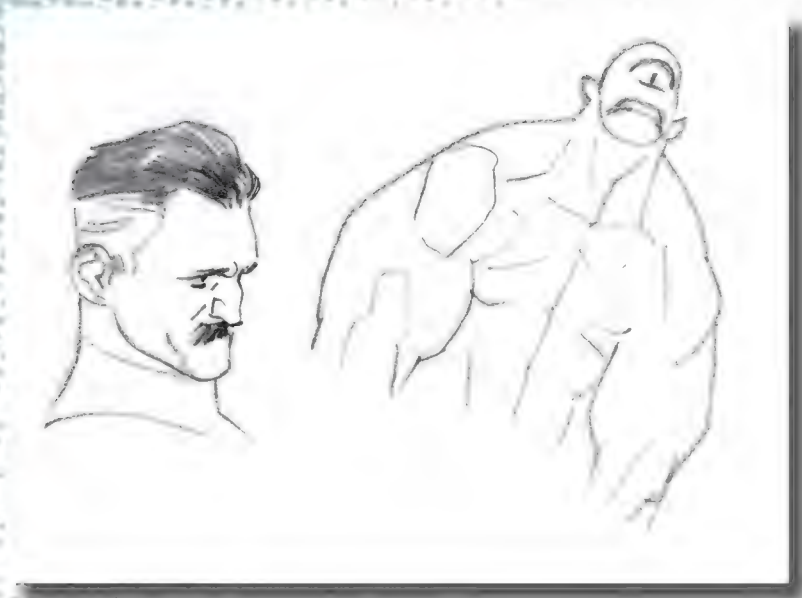


KIRKMAN: Some more sweet sketches by Cory. He draws a pretty mean Telia.

WALKER: Hopefully you can tell the difference between what was drawn in 2006 and what I did just before I started work on the issues in late 2009. Woof.

OTTLEY: Even Cory's stuff from '06 is awesome, no fair. Normally, artists look back and see how terrible their stuff is, but I honestly can't see how Cory could think that. His old stuff is packed with skill even way back on SuperPatriot, or even Battle Pope. I can't say enough about how much I think Cory rocks. Sorry if you are blushing now Cory.





KIRKMAN: More awesome sketches from Cory. Not really anything to add other than that Cory is great. He's such a master of the human form. Great looking stuff.

WALKER: *I work out.*

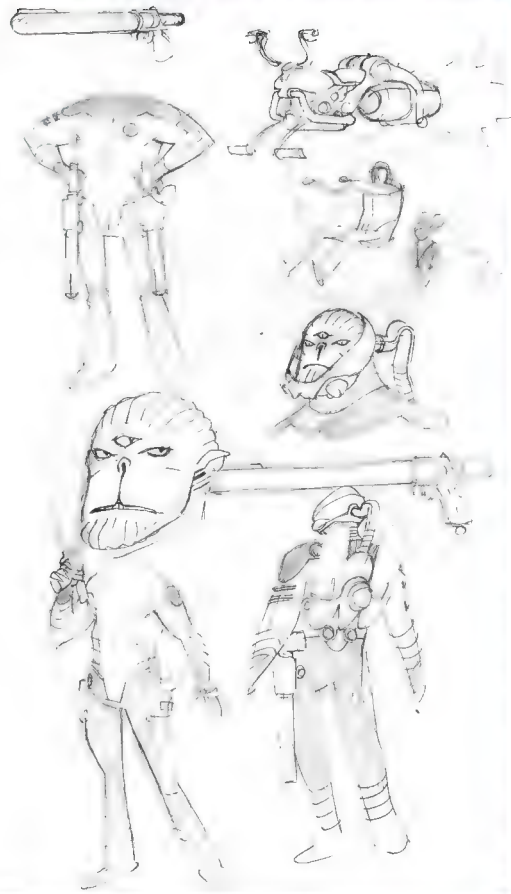
OTTLEY: *He does, I watch him.*

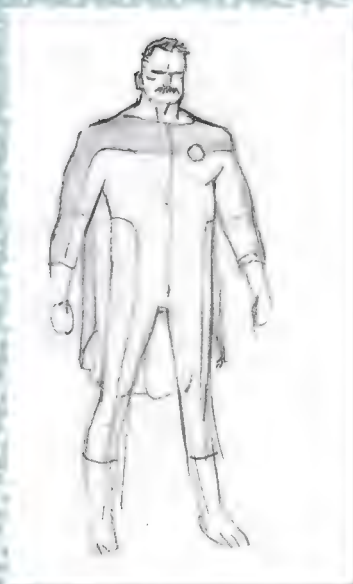


KIRKMAN: Here are Cory's designs for SPACE RACER which were done way back when the character first appeared in issue 35 of this series, when he was called Space Rider, but we'll pay no attention to that... that was just because Nolan changed the name for his book, you see. Wakka wakka. Move along.

WALKER: *Space Racer is pretty cool. I wish I had made him a little less humanoid, but whatever. I'm no Nate Bellegarde.*

OTTLEY: *FUN FACT: Robert wanted me to change Cory's design a little bit, instead of feet, he wanted hands. Ok so maybe that fact wasn't fun at all. I should've just called it a semi-interesting fact? I don't know.*





KIRKMAN: Some variations of Nolan's costume that Cory did. I don't remember which one we picked... and have no idea how I'd go about trying to figure that out in a definitive way.

WALKER: The colors, Duke, the colors! To be honest, I really quite liked the blue one, but I'm glad we went with the color scheme that we did.

OTTLEY: He could use shoes.





KIRKMAN: Some cool colored sketches by Cory.

WALKER: Pretty cool, right? Pretty cool bare feet, right?

OTTLEY: Bare feet are all right. We could get into **WHY** he would want bare feet but we could probably fill up pages talking about what benefits bare feet would have: is it a comfort thing, is he sick of wearing boots like the Viltrumites, is it simply because he's so strong that boots would not act as protection? Like goggles on Invincible? Like metal gloves on Allen's hands and feet? so on.



KIRKMAN: Page layouts for issue 66. I'm going to keep writing that page of Nolan talking over and over because it's great. This is what... the fourth time? Enjoy!

WALKER: Look, ladies, you can see a bit of the process used to do the first page of issue 66. Any time there's a large figure on a page, or in this instance, an enormous head, I thumbnail the drawing, then resize it for the page and lightbox it. That's what happened here.

OTTLEY: Yeah I do that too, but Cory has this uncanny ability to draw amazing detail SO small. It's pretty mind-blowing to see the actual size of Cory's thumbnail layouts and how CLEAN they are.



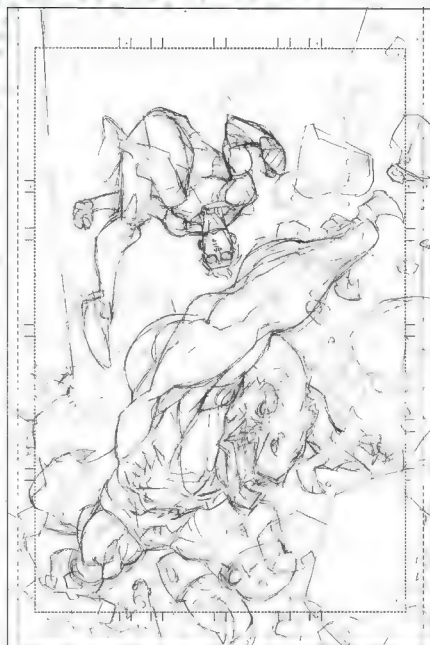


KIRKMAN: Random stuff from Cory's issues. I feel like I'm talking too damn much! Cory... explain what this stuff is.

WALKER: Well, most of it is pretty self-explanatory, but here you see the design work I did for those alien brain nerds in the gutter space of the very page they first appear on. You can also see my first pass at Thaedus from the giant head two page spread from issue 67, where I worked it to death and made it look like garbage, and then, there's little drawing I did to replace it. Also, that panel of Nolan holding the pillow over his ears is probably the best drawing I have ever seen.

OTTLEY: I Love it!





KIRKMAN: Here's the cover to 68. **DINOSAURUS!** Oh, Dinosaurus. You're the first comic book character my son kind of created... or well, named at the very least. We were playing with dinosaurs one day and I asked him to name his and he replied "Dinosaurus!" He was three at the time. I think I called Ryan about three seconds later to get him started on designs. Such a cool name. And I've got big plans for this guy, we'll be seeing much more of him very soon.

WALKER: Dinosaurus? Pfft. *The Elephant* is where it's at. Totally awesome cover, though. Ryan Ottley is the king of it.

OTTLEY: It is a fun name, even moreso after Robert told me the story. Oh and thanks Cory. *blushes*



KIRKMAN: More female villains! I've been wanting to do that for a while and that's what brought about Universa here. Excellent design by Cory Walker, which was drawn on the set of the movie PAUL.

WALKER: I remember sitting there, on the set of the movie PAUL, thinking, "I am going to design a Universa. Panty cape." So I did. As you see, though, my original color choices were not so well thought-out. Peach skin? Barf. Seriously, though, smooth making her green was smooth a smooth move, Kirkman. I think she turned out pretty good for a character that was designed on the set of the movie PAUL.

OTTLEY: Way rad, I love her design!





KIRKMAN: SEQUIDS! Ryan's inks for the cover to issue 70.

WALKER: SO good. I love any time Ryan draws a squid.

OTTLEY: I love YOU guys!



KIRKMAN: Last year at Comic-Con, Erik Larsen was drawing a bunch of commissions for people, so I threw my money in the hat and asked him to draw me an Invincible. I dug it so much that I asked if he'd be okay with me having Ryan ink the thing up so that we could use it as a cover. Erik, great guy that he is, agreed and it became a variant cover for **INVINCIBLE: RETURNS #1**.

WALKER: *SO good. I love any time Ryan teams up with Erik Larsen.*

OTTLEY: *I made a few changes, I deflated that hand a bit, Erik and his huge fists. It's always great working over Larsen's pencils, he has such a fun energy in his lines.*





KIRKMAN: This is a pretty awesome two-page spread by Ryan Ottley... the first time Invincible appeared in his yellow and blue costume since issue 51. Man, I did not expect him to wear that blue and black costume for 20 issues... wow.

OTTLEY: *FUN FACT: Jason Howard (Astounding Wolf-Man) and I hung out with Erik Larsen at this year's San Diego Comic-Con. Jason reminded Erik that I made a big fist challenge when I drew this spread. That is HALF a page of fist there folks. I then told Erik if he wants to be the "king of fists," he needed to one-up me. Erik immediately grabbed two 11x17 pages and filled the WHOLE thing with an amazing fist, and on one side you could see Savage Dragon's face. It was absolutely glorious. I hope he uses it in a future issue of Savage Dragon, because I doubt I could ever draw a bigger fist than I did here on Invincible. Until Larsen's spread hits the printed page I am still the fisting champion. Er..you know what I mean.*

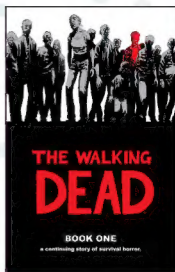
WALKER: *Nobody does it better. Ryan can do a lot of things that other guys only dream of. Drawing wicked-awesome spreads like this is one of them. Curious about the other things? Ask your sister.*



KIRKMAN: We leave you with an awesome splash page and a goofy drawing of Invincible wearing a Ryan Ottley body. Funny stuff, Ryan.

OTTLEY: Thanks! Peace out y'all.

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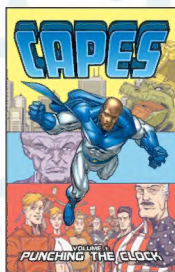
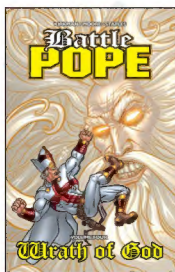
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